

THURSDAY 10 APRIL 199



(IR45p) 40p

A set uture

Tories smell blood as New Labour wobbles

Anthony Bevins and Colin Brown

Labour wobbled over privatisation policy yesterday, leaving itself dangerously exposed to concentrated and effective Tory fire for the first time in the runup to the election.

With Labour leaders openly contradicting each other, the focus of the campaign was diverted from the Tories own vulnerability on broken tax promises and on sleaze, with Martin Bell's high-profile challenge to Neil Hamilton in Tatton.

The danger of the mid-election crisis was critically illustrated by an ITN Channel 4 News poll last night, showing that half of the voters were still not firmly committed either way; the voters, too, are wobbling.

After John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader, had given an inierview in which he stuck strict ly to the manifesto line on privatisation - but contradicted a statement by Tony Blair earlier this week - the Prime Minister went for the Labour jugular.

Addressing a public meeting in a market square in Brecon, South Wales, Mr Major said Mr Prescott had escaped from his 'round the world hide-me-if-you

can' campaign tour.
The Prime Minister said that Labour spin doctors had intervened to say there was no policy of privatisation. "They said Labour had an open mind -an open mouth, an open mind, open warfare. That is the real Labour Party up and down the

country these days."
Tory strategists said the mood in the Major camp had lifted as a result of Labour's five changes in policy since the launch of their manifesto. "They are clearly unhappy under fire," one leadership source said. "If we can keep up the pressure, we could have a field day."

That pressure was increased by Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, who poun-ced on a lunchtime ITN

New ozone warning

The ozone layer above the Arctic fell to a record low near the end of last month, according to new satellite data released yesterday by the US space agency Nasa. The ozone layer, which protects us from potentially harmful ultraviolet sunlight, was 40 per cent thinner last month than the average between 1979 and 1982.

Brutal Zaire surprise Etienne Tshisekedi. Zaire's veteran opposition leader, was grabbed by President Mobum Sese Seko's soldiers and bundled into a car while on his way to his first day's work as Prime Minister-designate in Page 14

Prodi wins approval
The Italian Chamber of Deputies yesterday gave its approval to the initiative of the Prime Minister, Romano Prodi, to deploy Italian troops in a multinational force in Albania. The Chamber approved the force, to be led by Italy, by a vote of 503 to 85, with seven ab-

wide open but it's

not over, either 🤊 Andrew Marr, page 21

interview in which Mr Prescott said: "We don't have a policy of directly wanting to privatise

pages 10-13

total nationalisation...it's a

That line was in strict con-formity with the manifesto, published last week. But it clashed directly with what Mr Blair himself said in a City speech on Monday, "that where there is no overriding reason for preferring the public provision of goods and services... then the presumption should be that economic activi-

time the

coming alive...

the election is not

Bell resigns from BBC, Handbagged by Thatcher Election countdown

profile, page 20

tiy is best left to the private sec-tor, with market forces being fully encouraged to operate."

Mark Rowe

schools.

← For the first

Conservatives are

anything quite frankly, but we will face the realities of what has to be done with public assets... "But as Tony Blair has said,

Christine Hamilton

which the electorate knows, or combination of practical com-

The sculptor Anthony-Noel

Kelly was last night released on bail by Scotland Yard detectives

investigating allegations of theft of parts of dismembered human

The inquiry follows the discovery of the dismembered body parts of up to 30 people

at his studio and at a site in

Kent. Forensic scientists are try-

ing to identify the remains, which are thought to have been removed from hospital medical

Kelly, 41, a former abattoir

worker and butcher and a

nephew of the Duke of Norfolk,

has previously admitted smug-

gling pieces of human corpses into his studio in Clapham.

south London and using them to make plaster casts. The in-

vestigation is believed to have

been prompted by a complaint

from a member of the public

that he recognised the face of

Mr Heseltine told BBC ra dio's World at One: "John Prescott has completely spat in the eye of the leader of his own party, making it clear that all this stuff about privatisation is just

so much for the birds." But the focus of Tory attack -as with Labour - was on trust. Mr Heseltine said of the Labour leader: "This is a man who has sold every principle he

ever had in order to gain pow-er, and he talks about trust." Fending off such attacks, Mr Blair told his own daily press conference earlier that if he had made - and broken - the promises Mr Major had made in the 1992 election, "I would not have the gall to ask the British

people to trust me again." But as Gordon Brown, the shadow Chancellor, tried to keep attention directed at the Tory tax record - backed by a pendent Institute for Fiscal Studies, showing that the tax burden had gone up by £7 a week for the average household since the 1992 election - he was forced to defend the Labour

line on privatisation. Mr Brown repeated that Labour would consider privatisation of the National Air Traffic Control Services, but said there was nothing in the manifesto about the privatisa-

tion of any "public provision of goods and services". The dispute over privatisation also served to deflect attention from latton, and the prospective battle between former minister Neil Hamilton - the man at the heart of allegations about the Commons cash-for-ques-tions controversy - and Mr Bell, who announced that he had resigned from the BBC after 35 years' service.

Mr Major was left with no option at his daily press conference: he was cornered into saying that if he had a vote in Tatton, Mr Hamilton's seat, he would vote for him, and he urged all Tories to follow suit.

Released: Kelly in his studio

cut away, carries a price tag of £4,500 and was displayed at the

Contemporary Arts Fair in north London in January. It did

The piece, involving the head and face with part of the brain



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How it feels to be hunted to death

Nicholas Schoon

Environment Correspondent

A ground-breaking scientific study has reached the conclusion that many unscientific animal-lovers have long believed in - that an animal hunted by humans and hounds goes through a long, dark agony of fear, stress and utter exhaustion.

The stag hound packs which chase red deer in the West Country, on Exmoor and the Quantock Hills, can no longer deny their sport is cruel, said Professor Patrick Bateson, a Cambridge University animal behaviour expert.

his report, published yes-terday, concludes that shooting by stalkers is a much more humane way of controlling deer numbers. It was commissioned by the National Trust, whose ruling council is today expected to ban stag-bunting on its land at a special meeting.

The trust's council is also expected to call on the Government to commission a study into the stress which hunting with hounds causes to foxes - and

Police bail sculptor who crafts bodies

whether this can now be justified as a way of controlling their numbers. The report could not come at a better time for Labour. Unlike the Conservatives, the party is against hunting with hounds. Its manifesto promises a free vote in Parliament on legislation to outlaw it.

Evolution has left the red deer pitifully unequipped for pursuit by hunters on horseback with dogs. Being "relatively sedentary" they lack the musculature and stamina for the long moorland chases which last on average three hours and cov-er 12 miles but can range for more than 20. Their natural predator is the wolf and wolf pursuits are much shorter than

human ones, the report says. The evidence of prolonged, acute suffering comes from measuring levels of biochemicals related to exhaustion, stress, pain and cell damage in blood taken from 61 deer immediately after they were held at bay by the hounds then dispatched with a gunshot. Concentrations were compared with those in deer at rest, those crit-

The art of controversy

Damien Hirst: First stirred

public consciousness by pre-senting a sheep pickled in formaldehyde.

Gilbert and George: Pro-

voked outrage with artistic ex-

periments involving wrinkly

nudity and an excremental fetish which included huge

pictures of human excrement.

Jake and Dinos Chapman's

Art of the Repellent, involves

mutant mannequins refash-

ioned to look like products of

failed biogenetic experiments. Actress Tilda Swinton spent

eight hours a day sleeping on a mattress in a glass case at

London's Serpentine Gallery.

A Scotland Yard spokesman

said: "Following a request by

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of

Anatomy, officers from the

organised crime group are

investigating allegations of theft and burying of bodies without

ically injured in road accidents and those shot by stalkers. Professor Bateson said: "It's clear these [hunted] animals are completely depleted of resources they are desperately affected by long chases. From the point of view of physiology, the results are absolutely unambiguous."

He and Elizabeth Bradshaw, an Oxford University biologist, found pursuit caused the deer's red blood cells to break up. Their damaged muscles leaked chemicals into the bloodstream. A long chase left their blood

plasma, normally clear, tinged magenta red with freed haemoglobin. Blood levels of cortisol, a stress hormone which speeds up heart rate and releases sugar into the blood, leapt at the start of the hunt and rose as it proceeded. So did levels of beta endorphin, a natural chemical similar to morphine involved in pain-control.

The report says deer which escaped the hounds - about half -suffer severe stress, take days to recover and would probably be left more vulnerable to

"A search is being carried out in south London and at a venue

in Kent where a number of body

parts have been found." Kelly

was first arrested on 2 April.

He has never revealed the source of the body parts but recently told the *independent on*

Sunday: "To get them was a sweat, under the cover of dark-

ness. I had the police on me once because someone had tipped them off."

Kelly, who works in a studio

characterised by plaster casts of

elderly human torsos hanging

from walls, says his aim is to

challenge notions that health

and life are the prerequisites of beauty. He has argued that his

art immortalises the dead and

said: "I would not wish to hurt

is how we all end up."



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THE BROADSHEET

at the moment.

anyone. While I find beauty in death, these are nevertheless rotting bodies. You look at them and remind yourself, this 0345 95 95 95 Kelly yesterday said: "I'm helping police as much as I can and I cannot say anything else

an elderly man in a silver-coatnot find a buyer. He has previously admitted: "I'm a little bit on his position. Home News 2-9 THE TABLOID Leaders & Letters19 Arts Reviews18,19 Listings20,21 Comment 19-21 Obituaries 18 Culture 2,3 Management 17 Comment 10-13 Shares 25 Dilemmas 12 Radio & TV 23,24 Foreign News 14-17 Sport 27-30 Film 4-9 Weather 22 Business & City22-26 Virgin Direct Personal Financial Service Ltd is regulated by the il Investment Authority. The price of units and any income will be recorded and randomly monitored.

Photograph: David Rose

worried about the old man in

case someone recognises him."

turing twice a week at the

Prince of Wales Institute of

Architecture. The Institute yes-

terday declined to comment

Kelly has recently been lec-

significant shorts

Greenpeace solar protest on roof of BP headquarters

Greenpeace tried to turn the heat up on the energy debate yesterday when activists placed 25 solar panels on the roof of BP Exploration's headquarters. The protesters dressed in orange climbed up the lower part of the building in Aberdeen and laid the

climbed up the lower part of the building in Aberdeen and laid the panels and two flags around a sign saying "BP Solar not oil".

The environmental pressure group is calling on the company to switch £100m from oil exploration to its subsidiary BP Solar. But a spokesman for BP Exploration dismissed the environmentalists' challenge as a "piecemeal suggestion" and said that as long as there was a demand for oil in the UK, BP would try to meet that demand. He said: "These issues can only be decided by Government and consumers. The world has a demand for oil and the UK oil industry is one of our most successful industries.

Billie-Jo's inquest adjourned

The inquest into the death of murdered schoolgirl Billie-Jo Jenkins was opened and adjourned yesterday until the trial of her foster father. Billie-Jo, 13, was bludgeoned repeatedly over the head with an 18in metal tent spike as she painted the patio doors of her home in Hastings, East Sussex, on 15 February. Her foster father, Sion Jenkins, 39, is on bail charged with her murder.

Kennedy makes classic return



To the delight of music-lovers and Aston Villa fans, the violinist Nigel Kennedy (left) will give his first major concert tonight since he went into "retirement" in 1992. It marks something of a return for Kennedy, who brought classical music to a mass audience with his interpretation of Vivaldi's The Four Seasons. A football devotee who has always seemed to relish the sobriquet "unconventional", Kennedy has shaved off the goatee beard and left behind his punkish

clothes which made him famous. However, his punk period has given way to a new style of "street-urchin". After five years away, when he has apparently done very little except "come to terms with himself as a musical free spirit", Kennedy will be performing pieces by Bach, Bartok and Jimi Hendrix at the Royal Festival Hall in

Moves to curb rail suicides

Measures were unveiled yesterday to prevent the increasing number of suicides on Britain's railway network by Railtrack, the owners of the nation's track and signalling, and support group the Samaritans. With the number of deaths on the rail network now topping 170 a year, the privatised train services are trying to tackle the problem. Stations will get posters highlighting a dedicated advice line and carry the message: "There is a Samaritan at this station 24 hours a day." The measures were launched on the Great North Eastern Railway, one of the lines with the highest suicide rates on the network. GNER - formerly InterCity East Coast - has seen more than 120 suicides between London and Berwick since the line was fully electrified in July 1991. Randeep Ramesh

Budgie runs into turbulence



Sleepy Kids, the children's cartoon and merchandising group which owns the rights to the Duchess of York's Budgie the Little Helicopter brand, has run into financial turbulence. The company announced a net profit of £292,000 for the 14 months to December - down from £890,000 in the previous year. Martin Powell, chairman of Sleepy Kids, said a delay in completing a deal to distribute Budgie videos in the Linited States was to blame. He had hoped the agreement would have been signed last September, but it was

delayed until January. The group is currently in dispute with its US

Silcott wins legal aid to sue police

Winston Silcott, whose conviction for the murder of Constable Keith Blakelock during the Broadwater Farm riots in 1985 was overturned by the Court of Appeal, has regained the right to legal aid to sue the Metropolitan Police over its inquiry into the killing Silcott, 37, who is currently serving a life sentence for the murder of boxer Anthony Smith, had legal aid withdrawn last November, but it was reinstated following an appeal by a Legal Aid Area Committee.



Saxophonist Jo Wells who was unable to resume playing after the

Damages for musician who career perished in disaste

bands was wrecked by the Marchioness boat disaster yesterday accepted £150,000

damages.
Jo Wells, 38, was at the party on board the pleasure cruiser when it collided with the sand dredger the Bowbelle in August 1989 killing 51 people.

The High Court in London heard how she had toured the world with pop groups Tears for Fears and the Communards before the accident. Pete Townshend; of The Who, described her as "exceptional" and said she was certainly the best soprano saxophonist I have ever

But after the accident in which she almost drowned, to resume her music, it was claimed. Instead of earning an estimated £40,000 a year or more if she had gone on to a successful solo career, she had been reduced to working as a cleaner.

The owners of the Bowbelle and the Marchioness admitted liability but there was a dispute about the amount of damages. They initially claimed she had been burnt out before the accident and would have been unlikely to have further success. They also questioned what she had actually earned at the time, pointing to

a lack of documentary evidence to prove it. But at a resumed hearing in the High Court in Preston yesterday, Mr Justice Kay approved an agreed settlement of £150,000 damages plus costs.

The earlier hearing had heard no ford, Greater Marchester, had been at the prestigious Cheffianus mus at the prestigious Cheffianus music scaled is Man chester. She beat 10,006 other young music sare in win a scholarship to the Royal College of Missis, London, with her then instrument, the clarinet. But she trad test her studies to launch a pop career with the band kiss. ing the Pink, before enjoying significant succe Jears for Fears and the Communants.

Michael Rediem QC, her counsel, sald she had de-veloped post-traumatic stress disorder which affect ed her concentration after the accident in which tier

She had begun and then dropped out of a univertried to come to terms with the tragedy. Ms Wells said stie drank "to numb the feelings and sense of loss"

A jury at a coroner's court in 1995 decided the 51 victims had been "unkwiutly killed" when the Bowbelle struck the stern of the Marchioness near Southwark Bridge on 20 August 1989. The pleasure boat's upper deck was ripped away, killing many people who were on the dance floor downstairs when the collision happened. Survivors and relatives of victims claimed that those responsible for the disaster should face manslaughter charges for a "hit and run accident" in which the Bowbelle broke maritime rules. But the Countries Prosecution Service decided last year that no criminal charges would be brought.

Louise United

Vaccine hope for fighting heart disease

A vaccine has been developed to block the transformation of "good" cholesterol into the "bad" version that leads to heart

"good" cholesterol into the "bad" version that leads to heart disease, it was reported today.

The vaccine has been shown to reduce fatty deposits on artery walls in rabbits, and if it proves equally effective in humans it could pivoide a safer and cheaper way of fighting heart disease than conventional cholesterol lowering drugs.

Cholesterol travels in the bloodstream in compounds called high-density lipoproteins (HDL) or low-density and very-low-density lipoproteins (LDL and VLDL). HDL, carries cholesterol molecules away from body tissues for disposal and is associated with a low risk of heart disease. But LDL and VLDL, which carry cholesterol to the hody tissues, can form faity deposits along the cholesterol to the body tissues, can form fatty deposits along the artery walls, leading to blockages and heart attacks. The research has focused on neutralising an enzyme that converts HDL cholesterol to LDL and VLDL.

The research, reported in New Scientist magazine, is being carried out by T Cell Sciences, a biotechnology company in Needham, Massachusetts, USA.

CUSTOMER CARE

Car dealers selling drivers short

Drivers are receiving a poor standard of service from franchised dealers, according to a survey disclosed today.

They are also far from happy with the quality of European-made cars and it is mainly Japanese models that top a satisfaction table. Coventry-based Jaguar, however, did make it into the top 10 of the table and was also rated as the company which had improved most

since last year.

The findings came in the UK Customer Satisfaction Study conducted annually by car consumer experts JD Power, in association with BBC2's *Top Gear* programme.

From information provided by more than 16,400 owners and

drivers of M-registration cars, the survey found that motorists w most happy with Japanese car company Subaru. Second-equal most satisfying makes of car were Honda of Japan and Kia of Kerea. Jagnar was in eighth place and the only other European manufacturer in the top 10 was Germany's BMW, which was 16th equal. A spokesman for JD Power said: "It is clear from these findings that a segment of the motor trade is not keeping place with the levels of customer service that the public has come to expect."

Manchester airport loses altitude

Manchester has been overtaken by Singapore's Changi as the favourite airport for long-haul passengers, the International Air Transport Association said yesterday. Changi's ultra-modern terminal ousted Manchester, which is undergoing major reconstruction, from the top spot it held last

year in a poll based on the views of some
55,000 people and covering 54 airports, IATA
said Manchester's strong position despite
building work could reflect the attitude of the airport's staff who came top of a separate section of the survey for courtesy and friendliness to travellers. Athens, bottom of the poll last year and for years target of fierce criticism from the travel trade, was voted the most improved airport. Gatwick, which came 12th in the overall rating, came top for special services for overseas visitors. second for staff courtesy, and second equal for efficiency of check-in-staff as he



Bosses sacrificing their holidays

More than one in three company finance directors do not take all their bolidays – even though they believe workers are more effective if they use their full entitlement, a new survey shows today. Out of 200 finance chiefs questioned, 37 per cent said they never took their full entitlement, often blaming pressure of work. Yet almost all those polled by recruitment firm Reed Accountancy Personnel said staff should take all their holidays to be effective at work. Respondents said they expected employees to have a private life and "regenerate their batteries", but many said that despite plans to take their own full entitlement of days off, they never did.

HEALTH

Brain damage found in ecstasy user

Doctors have described how a 26-year-old woman suffered brain damage and had her memory blotted out after taking just half an

Dr Josef Spatt of Vienna's Ludwig Bolzmann Institute for Epilepsy and Neuromuscular Disease said she had a seizure three days after taking the drug and later showed "regressive infantile behaviour and fear". She recovered, but was plagued by memory problems which eventually led to her being admitted to Dr Spatt's clinic. After nine months there was only slight improvement in her memory. Writing in the Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery and Psychiatry, Dr Spatt said brain scans showed lesions in an area of the brain essential for episodic memory function and known to be where ecstasy causes damage in experiments with laboratory animals.

BUSINESS

Managers lead by example on pay

Pay rises for company managers averaged 3.4 per cent over the past year, reflecting a "remarkable" period of wage stability, according to a new report by the Reward Group research organisation. It said the recent period of pay stability was remarkable compared with the volatility of increases in 1991-92. The biggest pay rises were in Hertfordshire and Essex (4.3 per cent), London (3.7 per cent) and the North-west (3.6 per cent). Lowest were in the South-west and north-east Midlands (3 per cent) and Vorkshire and the North-east (4.2 per cent). (3 per cent) and Yorkshire and the North-east (3.2 per cent).

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you do, we'll give you £50 SAINSBURY'S worth of vouchers to spend on security products.



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Hero yachtsman joins ocean racing élite

The solo yachtsman Pete Goss, who gave up his own chance of sporting victory to save another sailor's life was awarded a special trophy for his

achievements yesterday.
Goss, 35, was honoured with the
Royal Ocean Racing Club's Trophy for
Outstanding Seamanship for rescuing Frenchman Raphael Dinelli in mountainous seas in the Southern Ocean in December during the Vendée Globe round-the-world race. Only six other people have been given the honour since it was set up in 1981.

He received the award in London from Terry Robinson, the racing club's commandant, who praised Goss's "courageous determination" in the face of a terrifying situation.

The actress Joanna Lumley presented him with a bouquet bearing the message: "Flowers for a hero, love and congratulations."

The Comishmen is also to receive France's most celebrated award for bravery, the Legion d'Honneur,



Goss, a former Royal Marine who is married with three children, went on to finish the race in a new British record of 140 days despite the detour which cost him his chance of winning the 24,000-mile race. He said the award was "particularly special because it comes from people who know exactly what I have been through".

He said he had been amazed since his return by the number of people who had asked whether he regretted his actions. "It's a question that never even crossed my mind. Sallors live by unstated rules which they learn very early on. When you talk about the life of a sailor at stake, everything else is

Mountain adventure on the Net

0: What next for an explorer who has viewed with amazement the world laid out before him from the summit of Everest? A: Show the rest of the world what it looks like.

The veteran mountaineer, Sir Chris Bonington, will embark on another high altitude odyssey next week when he leaves for the foothills of an unexplored Tibetan mountain

However, this time the public will not have to rely merely on newspaper reports and photographs to follow the adventurer's climb for he is carrying with him a digital camera and satellite phone to transmit photographs around the world via the internet in minutes.

The 62-year-old climber has been waiting for 12 years to gain permission from the Chinese authorities to enter the Nyain-Quen-Tangiha mountain range. His seven-man team leaves next week and aims to reach the summit of a 6,950

metre peak named Sepu Kangri, as yet unclimbed by Europeans, by the middle

"I am very excited about this project. We can send back both text and actual images and we can update the website daily, so that anyone in the world can join our climb," Bonington said yesterday. "But it does have a slightly evangelical level to it, because people tend to get more excited about the fastest journeys and the biggest mountains, which is going away from what I think is the romantic tradition of mountaineering and

exploration of going into unknown places. "Using this technology I hope we can show the ordinary person in the street what a wonderful unknown world we still have, and how good it is to go into it." From 18 April images and text from the expedition will be available on website

http://www.bonington.com.

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The sun is changing the way we live

Arctic ozone layer at record low in March

Charles Arthur Science Editor

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Free of article from france

If you spent the Easter break basking in the unexpected March sunshine, you may pay for it later in life with skin cancer. The ozone layer above the Arctic fell to a record low near the end of the month, according to new satellite data released yesterday by the US space

The ozone layer, which protects us from potentially harmful ultraviolet sunlight, was 40 per cent thinner last month than the average between 1979 and 1982. Though not a "hole", this continues a downward trend: last year, the March level was 24 per cent down on the 1979-1982 levels.

The risks of enjoying sunny weather are much greater in Britain early in the year com-pared with summer. The ozone layer always thins in March meaning that unprotected sunbathing in spring can be more hazardous in the long term.

Last November, an expert panel of scientists told the Government that 8,000 extra skin cancer cases would be caused in Britain by increased UV exposure. At present, there are 80,000 cases annually in this

The report said children today will face a lifetime risk of skin cancer which is 4-10 per cent higher because of ozone damage. The increase in ultraviolet light is also expected to affect crops and animals, plankton in the sea, and synthetic materials, although it is not yet. mer said: "The US has the capossible to gauge the damage. Worldwide, the average

ozone layer has a thickness of 300 "Dobson units" - about equal to two stacked ip pieces. In March, the Arctic level fell to 219 Dobson units. In the Antarctic, the ozone "hole"

message that the sun can be at stake here:

head of clinical programs at the Cancer Research Campaign. But a good proportion only take protection when they're abroad because they think that's where the danger is. A recent survey found that one in 12 people here insisted that the sun doesn't cause cancer - so there's

still some work to do." The most important precaution to take is to make sure that children are well-protected from the sun, she said. Studies have shown that high exposure to ultraviolet light when young gives a predisposition to skin cancer later in life.

"I was in Regent's Park today with a TV crew talking to people. The problem is that they don't like being lectured, though it was nice to see that the children were properly covered up, wearing baseball caps, long shorts and long-sleeved shirts, even if their parents weren't.' Britain has accused the United States of dragging its feet on implementing steps to reduce the greenhouse emissions that are blamed for climate change and global warming, writes David Usborne in New York. John Gummer, the Secretary

of State for the Environmentshocked UN delegates by visibly fulminating at the close of a speech delivered on behalf of the US government by America's ambassador to the UN, Bill Richardson.

Mr Richardson later told British officials he had been "yelled at" by Mr Gummer, who was seated next to him.

In his own speech Mr Gumpability to deal with the serious disruptions that climate change will bring but the rest of the world does not.

"In 25 years' time, when countries are facing starvation or inundation, who is going to pick up the tab? ... The sadness measures about 100 Dobson in America is that politicians have not been willing to com-"Some people have got the" municate to their public what is





Fashion learns Victorian lesson about a fair skin

Wearing shorts, swim-suits and bikinis in the sun could soon become a thing of the past as the ozone layer continues to deplete. Judging by the burnt faces affected by the early April sun, UV rays have, as predicted, have become more potent. For those worried about skin cancer statistics, Arabic robes

could become the beachwear of choice by 2010.

to SPF 15.

"We told customers never to use anything below SPF 15 and it has worked," said a Boots spokeswoman. The company has even produced an SPF 50 mole stick, for those worried that their freckles and moles may becoming malignant.

The world of high fashion blissfully ignores scares such as recommend that older women these. Gianni Versace has a opt for styles that cover up their

cream sold at Boots was SPF 8. leave little to the imagination, In 1996 it had nearly doubled as does Calvin Klein, Chanel, and every big designer under

the, ahem, sun. At Harvey Nichols, Temagin Thompson, the beachwear buyer makes no bones about her itsy-bitsy stock: "Sorry, but I do buy purely from an aesthetic anele. Bikinis are really strong this year, especially in sporty and asymmetric styles, but we do opt for styles that cover up their

the skin there ages quickly". There are some companies, however, which are providing safe clothing. Husband and

wife team Tim and Jenny Holloway have created a range of clothes called Sun Smart, all of the which have an SPF of 50. Their clothes, beach um-brellas and sunglasses are rec-

Adult-sized T-shirts and base-

When these garments are exposed to sunlight, their designs become increasingly visible. It is only a matter of time before further collections of sun-proof clothing are available in this country, as they have been for years in Australia.

Most super-models, including ommended by the Health Kate Moss, have a slight tan, Education Authority. . proving that women do still proving that women do still want a slightly sun-kissed look. fer from cosmetics companies.

The fashion debate about sun protection boils down to simple facts. The fashion designers will continue to expose flesh, as long as it is safe to walk out of doors, so it is up to consumers to protect themselves.

As long as the body is covered in at least SPF 15 and a hat there's no point in worrying too much. Adequate protection is easy with the vast range on ofball caps with UV monitors But the deep tan is now seen as So wear what you want, within

The architect's historic search for a blueprint to keep light at bay

"Architecture", wrote Le Corbusier, the 20th century's greatest architect, "is the masterly, correct and magnificent play of masses brought together in

Today, architects spend an increasing amount of their time trying to keep light at bay. To be fair, the sun has always been both friend and foe, and architects since the earliest civilisations have been encouraged to mollify its intensity. In fact, it has only been relatively recently that they have allowed the sun to sear its way into every room.

For centuries, various designs and combinations of thick walls, deep eaves, shutters, brisa at bay, both inside and around precious little extra cost. Any fects of the unmittigated sun.

keep us cool. No one knew needed to cool them. about the link between the sun's rays and skin cancer until very recently, but no one in danger out of doors. Even so, wanted to be dazzled or frazzled it is still rare in britain to see arcourse, the English, who for driving rain or scorching sun

buildings or streets. Over the past decade, howthose at Stockley Park, the United States-style business

es-soleil, verandabs and ar- the edges of buildings, these also overtly technological solution is cades have been employed to help to decrease the energy

On the whole, we are safe from the sun indoors and only in danger out of doors. Even so, by the midday sun. Except, of cades, which allow us to walk in decades have been resistant to without being enclosed just as any form of sunshading for our predecessors did when out strolling along John Nash's original Regent Street in Lonever, sunscreens have begun to don or as lucky shoppers still do appear on new offices (such as at the Pantiles in Timbridge Wells, for example.

Techniques for keeping cool park near Heathrow airport), and safe from the sun are well schools and major public build known, tried, tested and as old ings such as the British Li- as ancient Greece. It really is brary. As well as keeping the sun time to adopt them now and at

in danger of using energy, generating beat and contributing to the problem of global warming. But there are ways to protect us and save on energy.

Some of the latest internafeature deep canopies designed tors' eyes at all times of the day while generating up to 40 per cent of the electricity needed to

run them through solar panels. The problem at the moment is not so much a lack of ideas or technologies, old and new. but the fact that there are no guidelines, much less legislation, to ensure that buildings help to keep us safe from the worst ef-

Thanks to the chap who said he was 'hopping mud' about 'outrageous bank penalty fees' in the 'Sunlight' laundrette last week.

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Cancer experts split over roads risk to children

Glenda Cooper Social Affairs Correspondent

Cancer experts were divided last night over a new report which says that living near industrial sites or motorways could put children at increased risk of de-

A new study published today claims that children living near sources of atmospheric polluveloping cancer. tion, such as steel works or oil refineries, are 20 per cent more likely to die of leukaemia or other childhood cancers. It adds that there is also a "significant excess" of cases involving children who lived near motorways and railways.

ing experts - including Sir Richard Doll who heads the current national study on childhood graphically associated with two eancer [UKCCS] - dismissed the findings of Professor George Knox's study, saying that it made "no sense in a biological. way or a methodological way". The study takes no account of

Professor Knox's study -Epidemiology and Community Health - looked at more than genuine and not a demograph-22,000 children who died of can-ic artefact, as is now clear, then cer up to the age of 15 between 1953 and 1980. His team noted localised environmental haz-

New study finds excess deaths from living near pollution source

code and then drew a map showing locations of power plants, refineries and factories. They found a tendency for

cancer cases near furnaces, refineries, car and battery factories, crematoria and power stations - although, with a few exceptions, nuclear power plants did not appear dangerous.

Near motorways and railways there were between 15 and

20 per cent more cases of cancer than would normally be ex-But cancer charities and lead-pected, the professor said. The authors concluded that childhood cancers were geomain types of industrial pollution: volatile gases from petroleum and smoke and gas from kilns, furnaces and car engines.

other possible causes such as Professor Knox's study which appears in the Journal of diet or cancer-carrying genes.

which appears in the Journal of diet or cancer-carrying genes.

"If geographical clustering is "If

cancer rates in children by post ards," Professor Knox wrote. "For a comprehensive single ex-

planation we must favour direct exposure of pregnant women or young children to airborne substances diffusing into the surrounding environment."

He said industry could not

eliminate all pollutants altogether, but once identified specific ones could be reduced and mothers could be warned against certain occupations. But Sir Richard Doll said that Professor Knox's study was "hypothesis forming but not con-

clusive" and he did not find the argument "compelling". "It is an extremely complex methodology and he has not got a control study ... There is no obvious connection between industrial sites and cancer."

which the priority would be to look at whether living near main roads had significant results.

ticularly new in this. It is quite provocative in some ways ... but it doesn't all hang together."

He questioned the finding on believe that roads where cars pass quickly would bring about cancer chisters whereas those where cars emit more fumes from traffic jams would not. Professor Ray Cartwright,

head of Leukaemia Research Fund's department of clinical epidemiology and of the UKCCS epidemiologists, attacked the study for its methodology. "It uses postcode areas but we do not know how many people that covers ... We cannot accept this study as it is. You need to take individual people and look at

could now be used as a starting He said UKCCS would look point to see if there was a bet-

their individual experiences." Replying to the criticisms last night, Professor Knox said that his research was important and

at some of the hypotheses, of ter way of discovering the reasons for childhood cancer chisters: "It does make sense and it is the best methodology there Professor Gordon McVie, is at the moment ... You can't it must reflect the existence of director of the Cancer Re- throw away the facts because search Campaign said he was you don't like the theory."



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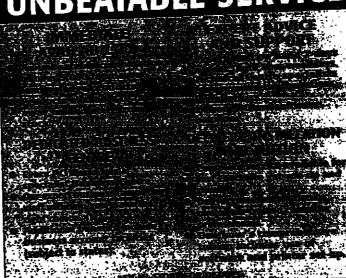
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Family ties: Doubts cast on stereotypes about modern, caring fathers and their rebellious offspring

Children yearn for more time with dads

Social Affairs Correspondent

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The idea of the New Dad is more myth than reality, it was claimed yesterday. A survey has shown fathers are remaining distant from their children, although their kids want more attention.

The report, which questioned 1,000 children between eight and 15, found that one in five could not recall sharing an activity with their fathers

during the previous week.

But, said the survey commissioned by the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. nearly 80 per cent wanted their dads to spend more time with them, 2 per cent more than wanted time with their mothers.

Most children were taking part in some family-based activity at least once a week, such as watching television as a family, or visited relatives. Only half said that they played with members of their family once a week, such as kicking around a football or playing board games.

But when they were asked about activities undertaken with specific members of the family, children re-

with mums, with only 34 per cent turning to their dads. The only activity where dads scored more was in trips to the cinema or football matches. When it came to no activities at all, 19 per cent said they had done nothing with their fathers, more than twice the number which said that about their mothers.

tional domestic lines, with girls helping mum in the home and boys going out with dad.

their parents' role fell along stereotypical lines too. A significant majority of children questioned thought their mum's place was in the kitchen while their dad's was in the garage, mending electrical items.

girls were more likely to receive physical affection than boys. Mothers were approached more than fathers when advice was needed. Of all eight to 11-year-olds sur-

their father. More than six out of 10 had done jobs around the house or garden with their mothers, compared with 37 per cent with their fathers. Half did homework or reading

Activities tended to follow tradi-And children's perceptions of

rties dads may be more affectionate than they used to be, but many children still have little to do with their fathers Children did not lack hugs and kisses from their parents, although

fide in their mothers, while only 60 per cent would talk to their fathers. And nearly three times as many 12- to 15-year-olds questioned would talk to their mothers rather than their

The family unit generally remained strong said the NSPCC with nearly three quarters of children living with both natural parents. But for the 16 per cent who were

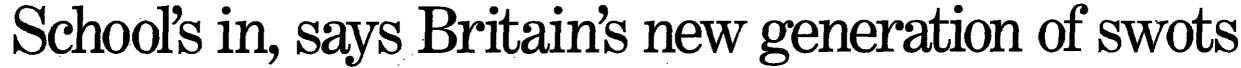
that they never saw the absent parent, which in nine times out of 10 was loving relationships with both their their father.

in a single parent family, a third said reassuring picture of childhood,

Jim Harding director of the charity, said: "This survey presents a thers appear to be remote figures.

result of heavy workloads or other factors. But what is clear from the survey is that most of the children did want their dads to spend time

Photograph: Pauline Lawrence



Gienda Cooper

Rebellious, disrespectful and disruptive? Not at all. Britain's youth are far more likely to be pupils in north London, where serious and studious, according to the Talking About My Gen-

Doing well in examinations - lives. was the most important thing amongst nine out of 10 children - more so than pleasing their parents, looking good or win-

That certainly seemed to be the case yesterday at South Camden Community School, a comprehensive school for 800

"GCSEs and A levels can make help you in doing these sorts of people freak out but you can't go to college or get that good a job without education."

her fellow pupils, who said they did not even mind having exams before the all-important GC-SEs, so that they could get pupils aged between 12 and 16 used to the examination insisted that exams were the process. "If you only do exams most important things in their once, you don't have enough experience," said Noras Al-

good way of getting used to it." Only John Agbe dissented: "I don't know whether the best the winter when it's seven or way of seeing how good someone is is by sitting down writing things on a stupid bit of paper.

While school posed few worries for them, the teenagers said Esther Anato Dunelo said - rammani. "And your parents can - they worried about increasing violence on the streets.

things.

In the report, one in five chil"You're going to have pressure on you the rest of your life,"

In the report, one in five chil"Boys are scared as well as bad things about you if you are their lives sensibly.

ing on in everyday life. You have a teenager, "said Tooba. "When "You can't make a teenager to say 'It's not the Sixties any you are going on the buses old do what they don't want to,"

more, it's the Nineties'."

She was heartily endorsed by Esther added. "So this is a scribed as "anxious", with girls suffering most. "It's not so much now but in

> eight o'clock and dark, it gets scary if you are walking around alone," said Tooba Ahmadi.

> "You feel there are so many crimes and you don't know what is going to happen," she

But the boys and girls also said that teenagers were unfairly seen as being violent and badly behaved.

"If my brother walks down the street, old ladies think that he is going to mug them and hold their bags tighter. It is just people reacting to stereotypes."

'Older people say all sorts of

people don't trust you just be- said Noras. "A lot of adults don't cause you might be one of know about practical things As for restrictions, the survey

found that children respect the ferent. Life has changed." views of their parents, and less what time to come home. However, the South Camden pupils said. felt that they knew how to live

"Adults should sit back and than 25 per cent think they listen to teenagers. Some ought to be the ones to decide teenagers know more about what's going on now," Esther

"They don't know what's go-





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Fingerprinting errors could free dozens

Crime Correspondent

Dozens of convictions could be reviewed after questions were raised about the accuracy of a Scotland Yard fingerprint expert, thrown into question yesterday after a trial of an

alleged burglar collapsed.

During the trial of a man who was accused of breaking into the home of television presenter and journalist Dr Miriam Stoppard, it emerged that supposedly matching prints were

"fatally flawed" South Yorkshire police have been asked to investigate the case, which involves an expert from the Metropolitan Police's fingerprint bureau. Dozens of previous convictions in which fingerprint evidence was used are being re-examined. If funit may lead to a flood of appeals.

Positive matches of fingerprints are considered flaw-proof and Scotland Yard said that this was the first time a false reading had been provided in a trial during the bureau's 96-year

The controversy arose from the trial of Andrew Chiori, 21, who was accused of breaking home in 1995 and stealing f41,000 worth of valuables.
Southwark Crown Court

a "human error". "It's the first time this has happened at the Metropolitan Police fingerprint

heard that Scotland Yard finger print expert Simon Harris was 'in no doubt" Mr Chiori was responsible after examining prints found at the crime scene. But experts called by Mr Chiori's legal team said Mr Harris's consions were "fatally flawed". Mr Chiori was formally ac-

The issue of fingerprint evi-dence was raised last November

when some of Britain's leading forensic experts accused chief

constables of scrapping the

standard of proof for fingerprint

matches to boost convictions.

Fingerprint specialists at Scot-land Yard told The Independent

they were angry that police chiefs have decided the current

16-point match standard is un-

necessarily tough and results in

guilty people going free. The Association of Chief Po-

lice Officers (Acpo) has agreed to drop the existing standard in

favour of one used in Australia

in which the prosecution relies

upon a qualified expert to de-

termine whether two sets of

But the Veteran Fingerprint

Experts' Association, which is

made up of civilian specialists

ence, believes the changes could

result in miscarriages of justice.

Expert's Association, said: "As

soon as you start tinkering with

the standard, there's a chance

Peter Jones, chairman of the

quitted yesterday after Peter Grieves-Smith, prosecuting, conceded Mr Harris made "an error of judgement". Mr Chiori spent two months in jail on remand before being released. Mr Grieves-Smith told Judge Butler: "I am asked to apologise for the error that he made. The

work he has done in the past is being double-checked". Judge Butler replied: "He simply got it wrong? Well, we all make mistakes. But he'll have to explain it to the inquiry.

But there is no doubt thrown on the ethicacy of in the Metropolitan Police, who have at least 25 years experifingerprint evidence being used for the prosecution, provided the expert does his work prophe added.

Detective Superintendent David Foss, of South Yorkshire Police, has been asked to investigate the case. A Scotland into Dr Stoppard's west London Yard spokeswoman said it was you could get it wrong." Opera company takes music behind bars



Inmates at Brixton prison performing scenes from Mozart's Escape from the Seraglio. They have been taught the work by Opera Spezzato, a compare performing the piece in Salisbury next week. The prisoners (right) with faces blanked out preferred to be anonymous

Photograph: Gynn Griffith

Huntsmen say they are astonished by suffering of deer

As masters of stag hounds met last night to discuss the National Trust's shattering report on their sport, one said that his hunt might have to give up pursuing deer because of its con-

Peter Barfoot, master of the New Forest Buckhounds, said: If this report is well founded and backed up then no one is going to knock it.
"Yes, we'd have to review

what we're doing."

There are four staghound oacks in Britain, one in the New Forest hunting fallow deer and the remainder taking red deer in the West Country. Some, like the New Forest, hardly use any National Trust land while others like the Quantocks are heavily reliant on it.

Yesterday, the master of the Devon and Somerset Stag-hounds, Diana Scott, was in tears as she rang the British Field Sports Society to seek information on the report. She did not want to talk to the press. The Trust's ruling council is

today expected to agree not to grant any of its hunting licences when they come up for renew-al later this month. The New Forest's licence has already just expired.

Some of the land involved had covenants or "memoranda" of wishes" attached to it when it was donated to the Trust. in which the owners insist that staghunting continue in perpe-

However, the trust, the nation's wealthiest and best-sup-

Masters of staghounds are braced for bans which will hit their

sport, writes **Nicholas Schoon**

ported conservation charity, has already squared Sir John Acland, son of Sir Richard Acland who gave a huge tract of Exmoor land with just such

a wish attached. Trust chairman Charles Nunneley said that Sir John had told him if his father had known about the suffering of the deer exposed by the scientists' report,

he would never have made such a wish. Janet George of the British Field Sports Society, which campaigns for huntsmen, shooters and fishermen, said: "The report is seriously bad news - the degree of these findings has as-

The report's author, Professor Bateson, said comparisons should not be made between hunting red deer and foxes - but

tonished us."

While it might be supposed that the fox also suffers enormous stress in the chase, they are naturally less sedentary animals than the deer, with more stamina and roam greater distances.

Furthermore, while only 5 per cent of shot red deer are left wounded rather than dead, the

ably causes proportionately higher suffering. They are smaller targets and shotguns are usually used, so a higher proportion of shot foxes are prob-

culling of foxes with guns prob-

wounds. There is no real dispute about the need to control red deer. They have no natural predators and would destroy their habitat if numbers were not kept down.

The Trust has been debating the cruelty involved in using bunting with hounds as a control for nearly 10 years without any decisive action - until yesterday. Its top management has been startled and persuaded by Professor Bateson's un-

equivocal report. Will the ruling, 52-member council feel the same when it meets today? "It'll be a bit of a disaster for us if it doesn't," said one Trust insider.

The fieldwork was done by biologist Elizabeth Bradshaw. who spent 18 months in West Somerset following the hunts and taking blood samples.

She and Professor Bateson

paid tribute to the huntsmen for their full co-operation, but said that if they now continued it was "in the full knowledge that they are causing suffering".

Professor Bateson quoted one ardent, lifelong stag-hunting farmer from the area, who told the scientists: "If your report goes against us, perhaps we shouldn't be doing what

Gang of boys 'raped tourist out on stroll'

A gang of eight boys aged between 14 and 17 "violently and repeatedly" raped an Austrian tourist visiting London and then hurled her naked into a canal, a jury was told yesterday.

Seven youths, including the 14-year-old "ringleader", had already admitted raping the 32ear-old woman in September last year, John Bevan QC, prosecuting, told the Old Bailey jury.

A boy aged 15, alleged to be the eighth member of the gang, who cannot be identified for legal reasons, denies three charges of rape, indecent assault and robbery.

The woman, who cannot be named, was kicked, punched, and subjected to a multiple rape ordeal and other "sexual indignities" after going for a midnight stroll from her hotel in the King's Cross area of London, Mr Bevan said.

"It may be she was naive, On the other hand, it may be that she simply thought London was to a party, but she told them in

She was sadly mistaken. She was approached and, as she thought, idly chatted to by a group of eight people she re-garded as children.

"Once they took her to where they could safely attack her, she was frogmarched down Regent's Canal and, after her clothing had been torn off her, she was violently and repeatedly raped by each one in turn.

She was then thrown into the canal. She survived. Perhaps it is a tribute to her toughness and good sense that she did, once she realised that resistance was hopeless and indeed dan-

Mr Bevan said: "The behaviour of these youths, acting in a pack as they were, defies rational understanding. The oldest was 17, while the rest were 16 or less and three of them, including this defendant, were 14. Mr Bevan said the youths

asked her if she wanted to go

not a good idea. Then they dragged her along a towpath. She was stripped, hit and kicked in the face and thrown to the ground "and pinioned by her arms and legs" Mr Bevan said the woman

was "raped repeatedly" and compelled to perform other acts on some of the gang. One black youth who made her perform a sex act "threatened to foll her if she bit him in the process*, Mr Bevan said. He said the offence was

"overthy racist in nature", as there were repeated references to "the white bitch".

Thevictim, aged 33 and living in Vienna, said that as they dragged her along the canal bank they held her mouth shut. Mr Bevan asked her what she thought they wanted. "I thought they were going to rob me," she replied. "They stopped and the biggest one said 'Now the par-

ty's beginning'. The trial was adjourned







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Food poisoning outbreak claims over 50 victims

The number of cases in an out-break of salmonella linked to a the victims were being treated in Perth Royal Infirmary and the Scottish hotel rose to more than 50 last night.

According to a spokesman for Tayside Health Board, 13 people have now been confirmed as suffering from the bacteria, and there are a further 41

suspected cases.
Tayside Health Board said there were four people in hos-pital last night, all making sat-isfactory progress. Of the confirmed cases, eight men, three women and two children are ill

The announcement followed a meeting of the outbreak control team, formed after the infection came to light at the Isle of Skye Hotel in Perth.

The hotel's owners, Bass Taverns, said the source of the out-break remained a mystery. The hotel's kitchens have been cleaned twice and the restaurant has remained closed since the individuals fell ill.

A spokesman for the health board said: "The public health department is liaising with colleagues throughout the country to ensure any suspected cases are identified and investigated.

"Environmental health officers are engaged in tracing the food histories of the people affected to try and identify any common source."

People involved come from as far afield as Easter Ross in the Highlands and England, making this a "complex task." The spokesman said two of ister mystery.'

other two at Kings Cross Hospital, in Dundee.

He claimed the Scottish Of-

fice issued a Food Hazard

Warning on 27 November with

a list of affected outlets but re-

stricted its distribution to envi-

roomental health departments

not be released to the public.

The buck stops with the Secretary of State and the Min-

ister for State and we have a

right to know if they will testi-

The Scottish Conservatives

refused to comment on Mr

Robertson's demand, claiming

it was a governmental matter.

sheriff in charge of the fatal ac-

cident inquiry to decide who is

called to give evidence.

Meanwhile, a Scottish Office

kesman said it was up to the

fy under oath," he said.

with instructions that it should

Labour yesterday demanded that Scottish Secretary Michael Forsyth give evidence at the fatal accident inquiry into the deaths of victims of the E.coli food poisoning outbreak in central Scotland.

Shadow Scottish Secretary George Robertson said Mr Forsyth and health minister Lord James Douglas-Hamilton would have to give a "full and frank account" of their role in handling the crisis.

Labour resumed its onslaught on the Government following Tuesday's publication of the Pennington report into the outbreak, which claimed 18 lives in the Lanarkshire and Forth Valley health board areas.

Mr Robertson said the ministers' appearance at the inquiry was the only way to restore pub-lic confidence in food safety, which began in November.

"The Pennington report catalogues the hands-off, slackly regulated, profits-first attitude to food safety which has been the hallmark of this Govern-

ment," he said. "This report could not, because of legal constraints, address some of the outstanding questions on the whole *E.coli* tragedy. The role of ministers in the early handling of these events is still shrouded in sinYorkshire Martyrs Collegiate School

Teachers poised to shut out gun boys

Teachers at a school where two boys were excluded after being caught with an airgun last night voted to ballot on refusing to teach the pupils if they re-turned, writes Lucy Ward.

Their threat came after an in dependent appeals panel over-turned a decision by the head and governors at Yorkshire Martyrs Collegiate School, Bradford, in West Yorkshire, to expel the two 14-year-olds.

Last night, talks were con-tinuing between the Roman Catholic school, Bradford Council and the boys' parents to try to resolve the issue without a dispute.

Brian Garvey, Yorkshire representative of the National Association of Schoolmasters/ Union of Women Teachers – the main union at the school - said that refusing to teach the voungsters was the only course of action open to his members

'Smart' bullets to be a sure-fire hit

Science Editor

They first appeared in cartoons, but "smart bullets" - which follow their target after being fired - may soon become reality. US multary realised that it is possible to build a bullet which can alter its direction during flight by twitching its nose.

The bullets are known as BLAMS - Barrel Launched Adaptive Munitions - and are guided by a laser beam.

Initially the aim is to produce large shells for fighter planes which can follow the twists and turns of an enemy aircraft in a doglight. But ultimately miniaturisation could make it possible to have hand-held weapons with smart bullets.

Though the individual bullets

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expensive than standard ones, they would allow snipers to hit targets several kilometres away with deadly accuracy.

The US Air Force project to build BLAMs has recently been declassified by the US Department of Defense. Ron Barrett. an aerospace engineer at Auburn University, Alabama, rold *New Scientist* magazine "This technology could change the nature of war."

Each bullet has a swiveling nose that is made to "twitch" by miniature piezoceramic rods, which change length when a voltage is applied to them.

They would be guided by 'painting" the target with a laser or microwave beam. Each round would have a sensor that homes in on this signal, just as a smart bomb does.

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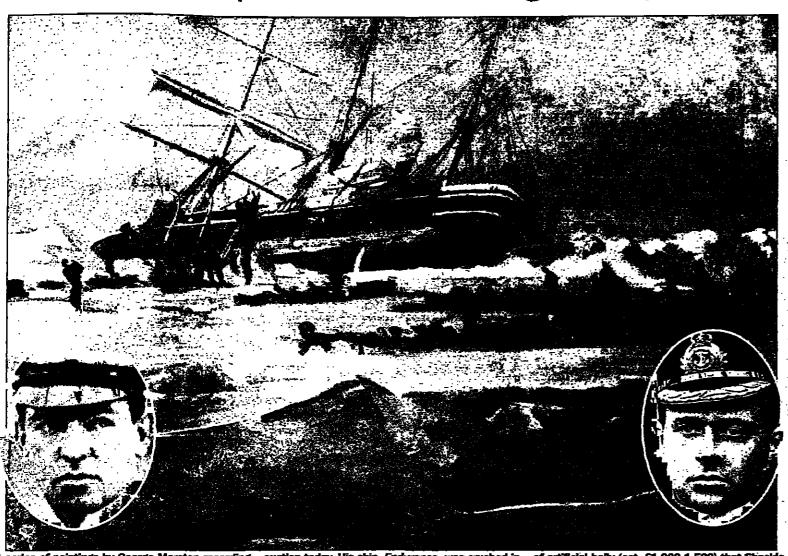
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Sir Ernest Shackleton's epic Imperial Trans-Antarctic

auction today. His ship, Endurance, was crushed in ice in the Weddell Sea (above, est. £15,000- ton (left) produced at Christmas festivities shared 20,000). Also in the sale is a cotton bag with a sprig

of artificial holly (est. £1,000-1,500) that Shackle

Number of new physics teachers set to plummet

Education Editor

Applications for teacher training in both physics and mathenatics have plummeted, raising fears of a serious shortage in the ubjects in secondary schools.

Applications for one-year postgraduate physics teacher-training courses have fallen by more than half - down to 181 from 440 at the same time two rears ago. So far this year there have been just 95 acceptances for physics, according to figures from teacher-training departments and colleges.

Trainers blame the drop namly on decreasing numbers of mature applicants. During the recession, both maths and science courses have relied on older graduates made redundant from jobs in industry and the City. Physics, in particular, has had a steady stream of ap-plicants from engineering com-panies which have laid off employees. The improvement in the economy has ended the queue of unemployed physicists ooking for a career change. Applications for the two sub-

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jects have fallen for the last three years, but the drop is particularly alarming this year. In Professor Alan Smithers, of maths they are down from 1,001 at this time last year to 742. Universities and colleges need to re-cruit 1,700 students to fill all their departmental places. Maths graduates, say teacher trainers, are very much in demand as the economy improves. And teachers' salaries compared with those of other pro-

fessions have fallen. There is no separate target for physics but the overall target for science is 2,707. So far there are just over 900 acceptances for all such courses. Applications and acceptances are down for chem-

istry, and also for biology.

Although some of the shortfall will be made up as students' other options fall through, experience suggests that about 20 per cent of maths places will be unfilled. In science, the shortfall may be less but only because the target for science places.

Mary Russell, secretary of the Universities Council for the Education of Teachers, said: "The situation in science is get-ting pretty desperate. We should expect to have many

more applications by this stage.
"Whenever a recession ends, science and maths are the first areas to feel the effects. Graduates decide they won't go into

Professor Alan Smithers, of Brunel University's Centre for Education and Employment Research, said that the difficulty in attracting physics teachers was part of the wider problem of recruiting enough people to

physics degree courses. Teaching was often a secondchoice career for physicists, he suggested, and should be made more attractive. Government bursaries in science subjects had not really succeeded in attracting more applicants.

He proposed regular sabbaticals in university science departments: "The real joy of partments; "Ine real joy of science is being at the frontier of your subject. Someone honed up to a high level of understanding of physics finds they are continually giving out in teaching and becoming further and further away from their subject."

Another ontion would be

Another option would be for university science depart-ments to include some teacher training in their four-year physics and chemistry courses. A spokeswoman for the Institute of Physics said: "We don't have enough enthusiastic physics teachers in the school system to persuade people to take up physics at A-level. Some schools have no specialist

Education+, The Tabloid

Coolest star sheds light on dark matter

star ever, with a mass only 50 times greater than that of the planet Jupiter. Despite being so faint that it required special techniques to detect it, the "brown dwarf" could help to solve the enduring puzzle of the

universe's dark matter. The star is known as a brown dwarf because it is small and comparatively cool. According to observations, its surface temperature is 2,000C. By contrast, our sun has a surface temperature of 5,500C, and a mass

1,000 times greater than Jupiter. Dubbed PIZ 1 by the team of astronomers from the University of Leicester which discovered it, the star lies in the Pleiades star cluster. Its low mass suggests it has never become hot enough to become a self-fuelling star the heat of the surface derives from the time when gravity pulled it together. The discovery was announced at this week's National Astronomy

Meeting in Southampton. Dark matter - which is impossible to detect by normal means - is believed to constitute more than 90 per cent of the total mass of the universe; the visible stars cannot explain the wider gravitational effects that astronomers observe. But theoreticians have argued over

hether the dark matter consists of planet-sized chunks of real matter, or could be comprised for their tiny individual mass by

weight of numbers. "This discovery has implications for dark matter because low mass stars and objects could make up the unseen matter in the universe," said David Pinfield, one of the four-strong team which made the breakthrough. "It hasn't been clear before whether the form of dark matter goes all the way down to masses the size of Jupiter. Now we have shown that it does. Jupiter-sized objects would count as dark matter."

Further observations could help to establish the total mass of the Pleiades cluster, as the observed stars have in effect already been "weighed" by estimating their mass, based on their brightness.

■ After this year's stunning show from Hale-Bopp comet, November next year should see a spectacular meteor shower when the Earth passes through the dust grains of another comet. The result will produce bright streaks in the sky, with thousands of meteors per hour entering the Earth's atmos-

phere and burning up.
Though they will also be visible this November, next year is expected to bring a more

Satellites at risk from solar flare

Charles Arthur

Telecommunications satellites and power lines could be the particles from the ejection knocked out by a solar flare thrown off from the Sun on Monday, scientists said yesterday. But it could bring benefits to Scottish observers in the and the European Space form of enhanced "Northern Lights", also known as the aurora borcalis.

The flare, consisting of electrons and charged ions of ele-ments from hydrogen to iron, was thrown off the Sun's surface in "a high energy event" known as a coronal mass ejection.

When it gets to the Earth, the first effects will be seen by spacecraft and satellines," said Andrew Coates, of the Mullard Space Science Laboratories.

The charged particles induce currents in metal objects. The last time this occurred, in January, the Telstar 401 satellite failed. Power lines also suffer from the induced currents, which Quebec power company was seriously affected by power

surges caused by a solar storm. Scientists were unsure yesterday afternoon exactly when will arrive in the Earth's magnetic field. It was detected by the Solar and Heliospheric Obser-Agency launched in 1995 to keep a constant eye on the Sun's surface.

Dr Coates said: "We'll get about an hour's warning from one of our observation satellites. The Earth's magnetic field is going to take a battering. In January, the number of electrons in the atmosphere went up by a factor of 10,000. It was just af-ter the peak that Telstar failed."

However, the same particles will also make the aurora borealis visible further south than normal. "It should be visible in Scotland, and maybe even lower down."

The real danger is to satellites which are in geostationary can blow supplies. In 1991, a orbit - predominantly TV and communications. "They are in the firing line," said Dr Coates.





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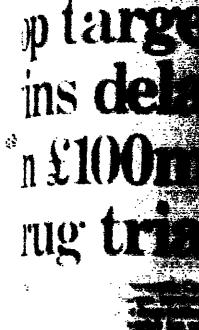
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Fore! A golfer on the Old Course at St Andrews, Fife – home to the game's ruling body – seen from the Old Course Hotel where managers are seeking to protect guests whose tranquil tea in the conservatory is regularly interrupted by wayward shots from the 17th hole which shatter the glass — Photograph: Colin McPherson

Five arrested after stake-out in hunt for Guerin killer

Five people were being questioned by po-lice last night in the latest stage of their investigation into last year's murder in Dublin of the Irish investigative crime

journalist Veronica Guerin. Two of the five, a man in his fifties and a woman, were held after they left a ferry from Holyhead, Anglesey, when it docked at Dun Laoghaire, Co Dublin,

yesterday morning.

The move was understood to have fol-lowed a stake-out operation by detectives at Irish airport and ferry terminals.

Three other men were held later in other parts of the Irish capital. All of the arrests were made under legislation permitting suspects to be held in custody for up to 48 hours before being either charged or released.

The man held on the ferry had been sought by police for questioning since leaving Ireland for Britain at the end of last summer.

Police have questioned over 100 people since Ms Guerin was shot dead at the wheel of her car in Dublin last June.

The on-going investigation has also produced scores of underworld guns and



not directly linked to the killing of the

So far, one person - a Dublin man has been accused of the Guerin murder. The shooting prompted widespread outrage in the Irish Republic and led the Dublin parliament to introduce a series of anti-crime measures - including the right to seize the assets of known

Interpol's top target wins delay in £100m drug trial

The trial in the Netherlands of a Briton accused of running Europe's biggest drugs ring was halted yesterday after claims that the evidence against him may have been contaminated.

The development in the case ren, codenamed Target One by Interpol and charged in connection with an alleged £100m cocaine smuggling plot, raised immediate questions over crossborder co-operation between European police and customs.

Han Jahae, for the defence, maintained that methods used by British investigators to gather information on Mr Warren, a businessman from Liverpool, rendered the prosecution null and void. He demanded the UK authorities reveal exactly how the evidence was obtained.

Mr Jahae told the central criminal court at The Hague that the use of phone taps, and the fact that British authorities would not divulge details of their informants, were contrary to Dutch procedure. He maintained that infor-

which had been used to charge Mr Warren in Britain on a previous occasion should not be admitted. The only evidence admissible was that obtained by an independent Dutch investigation.

The presiding judge, Irene De Vries, adjourned the case until 5 June, and asked for four extra witnesses to be called, including two British customs officers. Nick Baker and Phil

Mr Warren was acquitted in

1993 at Newcastle Crown Court on charges involving £250m worth of drugs hidden in ingots.

In October last year he was arrested by Dutch police near Rotterdam Europort. A raid on a ship in the dock led to the recovery of 800kg of Colombian cocaine, with a street value of gots. Raids in Amsterdam and Rotterdam netted more drugs, bringing the total value to £100m, as well as a cache of hand grenades, automatic weapons, and CS gas canisters. Dutch police had acted on in-

formation from Britain as part of a six-month operation, codenamed Crayfish, involving Dutch investigators, British customs, and officers from the North-West Regional Crime Squad.

Six other Britons were ar rested and charged with Mr Warren. They include Stephen Mee. from Liverpool, who escaped from a prison van on the way to Manchester Crown Court in 1993 but was sentenced in absentia to 22 years in jail on charges of smuggling ∞caine from Colombia.

Mr Mee, and another demation obtained in the UK fendant, Ray Nolan, 28, from Liverpool, allegedly gave false names to the Dutch police. The other defendants are John Farrell, 34, from Manchester, Stephen Whitehead, also 34, from Oldham; William Fitzgerald, 55, and William Riley, 47,

both from Liverpool. Yesterday, after being remanded in custody until 5 June, Mr Warren said: "It is important that you investigate how the English got their information. Why did they need to claim public immunity?"

DAILY POEM

From 'Song of Myself'

By Walt Whitman

The spotted hank swoops by and accuses me, he complains of my gah and my loitering.

I tuo am not a bit tamed. I too am untranslatable, I snand my barbaric yawp over the roofs of the world.

The last scud of day holds back for me. It flines my likeness after the rest and true as any on the shadow'd wilds, It coaxes me to the vapor and the dusk

I depart us air, I shake my white locks at the runaway sun, I offuse my flesh in eddies, and drift it in lacy jags.

I bequeath myself to the dirt to grow from the grass I love.
If you want me again look for me under your boot-soles.

You will hardly know who I am or what I mean, But I shall be good health to you nevertheless, And filter and fibre your blood.

Failing to fetch me at fast keep encouraged, Missing me one place search another, I stop somewhere waiting for you.

Today's selection from the new Penguin Classics anthology of Ninetcenth-Century American Poetry, edited by William C Spengemann with Jessica F Roberts (Penguin, 1999), is the final part of the epic autobiographical poem at the centre of Whitman's Leaves of Grass. First published in 1855, the collection would acquire many new poems as it went through nine editions before Whitman's death in 1892.

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THE INDEPENDENT election'9

Tories would make bribing MPs a crime

Fran Abrams and Steve Boggan

The bribery of MPs could become a criminal offence if the Tories are returned to power, John Major said yesterday.

A change in the law following the cash-for-questions scandal would end more than 20 years of calls for a legal loophole to be closed. As long ago as 1976 a Royal Commission on standards in public life suggested that Parliament should consider making the corruption. bribery attempted bribery of an MP an

Yesterday the Prime Minister told journalists that the move, which was also recommended by Lord Nolan, should be looked at. "I will certainly examine the question of candidate. whether this should be a "If a can criminal offence."

A Home Office policy paper ister and the Cabinet Secretary, last December suggested that he would not be a Labour canthe law should be changed. At present MPs are not covered by the laws on bribery in public bodies and must be disciplined Labour leader said. by the House of Commons

Major takes on Mohican in Brecon

Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

A man with a red Mohican haircut supporting the Labour Party vesterday gave John Major his hest day on the campaign trail. In glorious sunshine in south devote himself to his new Wales, the Prime Minister strippolitical career. ped to his shirt sleeves to deliver an attack on Labour from the ence in a small theatre in platform of his battle bus in the Knutsford, also in Cheshire, market square at Brecon.

With real feeling, Mr Major told the crowd of rival Tory, Labour and Liberal supporters that it felt good to "escape from that mad circle of opiniontormers" in London.

At that point, the heckling began. "God help us if you are still there in government."

Mr Major retorted: "I will be I sometimes remember someone else with less exoue hair saymg to me the same thing five years ago."
Mr Major then harangued

Mr Bluir and the Labour Party of BBC News who had previtor threatening to bring higher ously refused the reporter's taxation in spite of all their deuials. The man with the Mohican shouted "bollocks". The Prime Minister said: "That is the most intelligent remark I have heard from the Labour Party in

this whole campaign."

The street theatre had a serious purpose. Mr Major was campaigning in one of the "super marginals" in South Wales planned. which the fortes are desperate to hold. Brecon and Radnorshire was held by Jonathan Evans with a 130 majority at the last election and is being challenged by Labour and the Lib-eral Democrats.

rather than the courts. The paper suggested that new legislation could make bribery of an MP an offence, but could allow a waiver whereby the House could decide to deal

Speaking in Plymouth last night, Tony Blair said behaviour like Mr Hamilton's would not

with a particular case itself if

be tolerated in his party.
"Like Martin Bell, I am willing to give Mr Hamilton the benefit of the doubt on the allegations as yet improven," he

"But there are enough adunitted wrongdoings to merit Mr Hamilton's stepping down. If a candidate of mine had taken the gifts and payments Mr Hamilton took, without declaring them, he would not be a Labour

"If a candidate of mine had lied to the Deputy Prime Min-ister and the Cabinet Secretary, didate. These are admitted wrongdoings. They are serious. Yet he is still there,' the



Hamilton has made it absolutely clear that he has a full answer to the allegations put against him. I have given my evidence to Sir Gordon Downey and it is his job to evaluate it." Mr Heseltine's evidence to

the Scott inquiry into the sale of arms to Iraq proved damag-ing to his fellow ministers because it emerged that he had refused to take advice from the Attorney General, Sir Nicholas Lyell, that he should sign a public interest immunity certificate which would prevent evidence from going before the courts.

John Major yesterday gave a personal vote of support to Mr Hamilton, whose constituency association backed his candidature on Tuesday night. He said that if he were voting in Tatton, Cheshire, he would vote for Mr Hamilton and the elec-

Bell burns his BBC bridges to take on Tatton

correspondent and prospective independent MP for Tatton, Cheshire, yesterday resigned from the BBC after 35 years to

Speaking at a press conferhours before the Labour candidate he is replacing was due to formally stand down, Mr Bell said he had made his decision "with a bit of a sad heart".

"But," he added, "it became clear, especially now I'm in for the long haul, that I could not remain even theoretically or technically a BBC reporter.

"I'm not going back. I expect to be the next MP for this constituency so I have necessarily burnt my bridges behind me.

Tony Hall, the chief executive taken it well, Mr Bell said, and "with a certain degree of relief .

requested that his "BBC swan ing", a documentary on the United Nations, and a series of radio pieces entitled The Truth is our Currency, be broadcast as

But Mr Bell revealed that he had, that morning, made a fortnal complaint to his former employer about the coverage of his

While he had been canvassing in Wilmslow, the BBC had

chosen to broadcast footage of one person of the three who had Martin Bell, the former war opposed him, instead of the 25 who had offered their support. "I never thought I'd been in this situation," he joked. "I left the Beeb and already standards declined so fast?"

Mr Bell also revealed that he had a new political ally in the form of the former Manchester police chief John Stalker, famous for his anti-corruption stance, who had approached him yesterday to offer his

support. "He came in off the street this morning," Mr Bell said. "Mr Stalker was out for a walk on the

heath and he called us. "I'm very, very pleased as he's Mr Integrity and his endorsement carries some weight in these parts."

After the Conservative candidate Neil Hamilton's official reselection on Tuesday night, at least one local Conservative councillor resigned in protest at a vote some protested was "a whitewash".

They raised prospects of an independent Conservative candidate to stand against Mr Hamilton, a possibility that appeared to have been firmly squashed from above by yesterday afternoon.

Mr Bell said that following the vote, he had received a number of calls from Conservatives, the identity of whom he hoped to be able to reveal in the near future.

"[Their calls] are very important to me. I've been spending a lot of time talking to these people," Mr Bell said.



But are you perfect? asks Lady T

Westminster Correspondent

learned yesterday why Martin Bell should never have done it. Journalists are good at asking questions but bad at answering them and to be handbagged by BaronessThatcher - or Neil Hamilton - is a humbling experience.

cepted a couple of shrubs, ina sickly-looking rhododendron from a pair of well-groomed garden centre which rather du- for the next three weeks until cameras she said: "Britain has palling potential for metaphors ing wrong," and so on.

She had shrugged off a couple of questions about sleaze with the usual rejoinder about fighting the election on "real issues". She moved round to where I was standing and I shot: "Are you happy with Mr Hamilton as a candidate?"

She glared, but did not hes-Lady Thatcher had just acitate: "Are you perfect?" and waited just long enough to encluding a Hebe Margaret and sure that I had no rejoinder apart from a ridiculous, mum-

bled yes and she was off.

are regal visits, a gracious presence with just a few more words than the Queen Mother. At the next site, Priory School in Christchurch, a bunch of uniformed five-year-olds, all born Howarth, the Aldershot candiafter her downfall, were assembled with posies and she busied herself sorting them out

"80 per cent of it is ours but they export more to us than we do to them," to a bemused Mr And then, with Gerald

date and her former PPS in tow. she unaccountably went to the Aldershot Football Club - a as the best backdrop for the team so bad that it dropped out photographers. She then eve of the Football League when it a mini-pressure and the football League when it went bust seven years ago year-old with the football League when it went bust seven years ago.

visions twey from the Pre-

biously boasted that it was she leaves for Hong Kong five given away too much, suddenly about sporting and political days before the election. These she was blurting out about fish: disasters, most of the team disasters, most of the team have jobs. They could only muster seven bored players for a kickabout before her arrival. It was a disastrous photo opportunity with the TV crews taking it in turns to read out witty pieces to camera all about rel-

egation and penalty shoot outs. But she wasn't here to talk about football. Told by an American reporter that Tony Blair was seen in the US as the new Thatcher, she formulated: "They've got the sex wrong, the ***

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If you aren't a switcher, forget it

If you want Tony Blair to take you seriously, you have to live in one of 57 target constituencies, tell the Labour Party that you voted Conservative last time, and say you haven't yet de-

cided this time. Then you will feel wanted. You will have received a "per-sonal" letter from the Labour leader as soon as John Major went to the Palace to ask for the dissolution of parliament. You have probably been invited to meet Mr Blair, and the local Labour candidate has been on your doorstep more than once.

Labour's election campaign is based on the concept of targeting. Mr Blair needs to win just 57 seats to have a majority of one in the new House of Commons, and in those seats, taking boundary changes into account, the Tories won by a combined margin of just 146,000 votes in 1992. So, if 73,000 people can be persuaded to switch their allegiance from Tory to Labour, Mr Blair will be sure of becoming prime minister. That is why the key

icon is "switcher". This is the small group of voters highlighted on Tuesday by

word in the Labour worker's lex-

Tony Blair wants to know you, but only if you live in one of 57 key constituencies, writes John Rentoul

Liberal Democrat leader Paddy Ashdown who said the parties were cynically targeting the marginals at the expense of the electorate at large.

The trick is to work out who the 73,000 people who matter in this election actually are. It is a trick the Labour Party is getting better at, and it remains well ahead of the Tory party in the science of political targeting.

In the 1992 election, Labour that Labour knows more about achieved a higher-than-aver- the voting history of its target age swing in its target seats, worth an extra 1,000 votes in each one and as many as 25 ex-

to do better than that: All the party's carryass returns from the last election are on a series of linked computer data-

The 57 Tory seats Labour needs to win

Exester
Veila of Clwyd
Brighton Pavilion
Covertry South
Kingswood
Stevenage
Worcester

Worcester Emet Cardiff North

tra seats. This time, they mean

voters than many of them can remember themselves.

All voters are classified into different kinds, including weak Labour, "positive" Labour. squeezable Liberal Democrat, and the all-important Tory "switchers". Not all the effort is bases, and these bave been put into switchers, because the maintained and updated so computer database is also the

Waveney
Derby North
Falmouth & Cambo
Birmingham Hall G
Calder Valley
High Peak
Bury North
Botton Wast

Labour MP, but are now boundary changes.

4548 146,378

foundation for Labour's GOTV effort - an acronym imported from the United States, meaning Get Out The Vote. But the big effort is on those

who might vote Labour but are not persuaded yet. If Labour identified you some time ago, you will already be used to receiving regular communications from Mr Blair, his deputy, John Prescott, and the local Labour candidate. But it is not just leaflets. Shadow cabinet members are taking time out from preparing to run the country to talk on the telephone to potential switchers who might be swayed by their soft words.

Now, however, Labour faces the strange possibility that they may be, like generals, lighting the last war. Even if the opinion polls are as wrong as they were last time, the real battleground is not going to be these 57 seats at all, or even the 90 which have been designated "key seats" to give Labour a buffer, to allow for some targets

to be missed. Unless the Tories turn the campaign round quickly, Labour could win in all kinds of unlikely seats where its preparation has been much less intense.

THE HURRIED VOTER'S GUIDE

THE CAMPAIGN

The Conservatives claimed Labour was in "open warfare" over privatisation. After Tony Bailr indicated the party would go ahead with more privatisations, possibly including air traffic control, the Torles published a speech from the opposition transport spokesman. Andrew Smith, to last year's party conference. In it he said that "our air is not

for sale". Labour scored on tax after Mr Major claimed the tax burden had remained the same since the last election. An independent report from the Institute of Fiscal Studies said that the average family was, in fact, paying £7 per week more than at the last election.

Both parties celebrated five years since the last election, the Conservatives by noting their triumphs and Labour by noting Tory failures. Martin Bell, the war correspondent standing against Neil Hamilton in Tatton, resigned from the BBC yesterday. He told journalists he had tried to hand in his resignation last November but it had been rejected. Then he went on a

walkabout to try to win votes. Seven senior businessmen backed Liberal Democrat policies as the most likely of the major parties' proposals to build a successful

and stable economy.

In a letter in today's Financial Times, they said its agenda as "credible, practical and ultimately beneficial to British business and

KEY ARGUMENTS The deputy Prime Minister, Michael Heseltine, set the tone by claiming that the Labour leader could not cope with

ection politics. Praising John Major, he said: "This Prime Minister can take the pressure. Tony Blair is cracking under the strain." Mr Blair retorted that the Conservativas were "a desperate

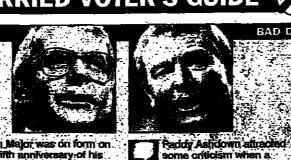
group of people".

"You will see they will try to scare people and frighten people about me. We have to carry on with the message of hope," he said.

Mr Major carried on in the same vein, accusing Labour of "hypocrisy" on tax. Gordon Brown, the shadow Chancellor, responded in kind with his own claim that the Prime Minister had told lies over the issue.

Baroness Thatcher, out campaigning in Aldershot, also had some comments on Mr Blair. 'He is trying to take over my policies, it is a kind of conversion of convenience," she said.

But Labour's former deputy leader, Roy Hattersley, said Mr Blair was trying to imitate Baroness Thatcher's techniques. "He is not a leader who allows compromise. He pursues his aims with the ruthlessness that characterised Mrs Thatcher," he sald.



& Cleveland East Brentford & Islaworth

John Major was on form on the fifth anniversary of his election. The Conservatives appeared to have rattled Labour over privatisation and policy changes, and the Prime Minister cheerfully guipped back at

heckers as he toured South Wales. A man who resented his attack on Labour shouted "bollocks", to which Mr. Major replied: "That is the most intelligent remark! have heard from the Labour Party in this whole campaign." ..

woman was kept out of a Liberal Democrat "open" discussion in Twickenham, west London because, according to a party official, she wanted to make a political point.

Mr Ashdown had begun the session by saying: "I am on a mission to... build a bridge between the people and the politicians:

and the politicians:
"It's about time we had politicians." with ears open."

ONE TO REMEMBER

Tony Blair joined dozens of happy schoolchildren for a photograph on a brightly coloured barge in Bristol, and Sian Clare of the Press Association asked to leave her brown coat behind, so as not to spoil the image of the Labour leader and the children smiling in the sunshine. "We are trying to capture the interest of voters," an alde attempted to explain. "We want to



HOGWASH

babour's deputy leader, John Prescott, said on the ITN lunchtime news yesterday: "We don't have a policy of directly wanting to privatise anything, quite frankly, but we will face the realities of what has to be common estimation of practical common estimation of practical common estimation of the common estimation of the common estimation of the common estimation of the common estimation and it is unite happy to stand by that." goden setting and in quite happy to stand by that.

THE OTHER PARTIES

At the launch of the Alliance Party's manifesto in Northern Ireland. leader Lord Alderdice said the party firmly rejected the "not-aninch" approach to politics. The Alliance propose a regional power-sharing government for Northern Ireland and a bill of rights to prevent discrimination.

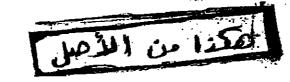
The row over SNP spending continued, with economist Jim Stevens denying that he had supported the party's predictions. Actors Corin and Vanessa Redgrave launched a "Charter for Basic Rights", on which a candidate will stand in the election, and warned that Britain risked failing victim to "pinstripe fascism".

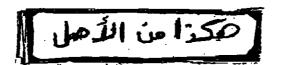


Baroness Thatcher relished her return to the campaign trail in-Dorset, saying "I am fighting fit, it is marvellous to be here, I have fought 11 elections and it is marvellous to be out

She chastised those who raised questions about Neil Hamilton: "Why are you going on and on and on about this?" Lady Thatcher asked, before condemning the journalists in

Only someone who is perfect themselves can level charges





election'97

Privatisation exposed as Labour's Achilles Heel

Anthony Bevins analyses the background to the policy shift within Blair's camp

Labour's problem on privati-sation has been slow to break. but it has been aggravated by the party leader's eagerness to

keep on creating "new Labour". When the party manifesto was agreed and published last week, it should have marked the end of all further movement. Unfortunately for Labour, Mr

Blair has carried on regardless. Last Monday, he was making privatisation policy on the hoof, and he has left his colleagues behind. By doing that, he has left himself vulnerable to the

Tory charge that Labour is too. volatile; it has changed so much that there is no stability - that

it cannot be trusted. For Labour, the pity is that its own message that the Tories could not be trusted on tax having broken their promises of the last election - was yesterday being deflected by the new Labour conflict.

Gordon Brown told The Independent yesterday that

Labour's policy was quite clearly set out in the manifesto. He was quite right. There is a section on the possible sale of

departmental assets - "proper-ty, land and buildings" - that are surplus to requirements; there is a section on the Post Office, which says that "Labour favours. greater commercial freedom for self-financing commercial organisations within the public sector"; and London Under-

ground would be kept within the Conservative public expenditure told the Labour Party conferpublic sector. Beyond that, however, there

is the question of National Air Traffic Control Services, which Mr Brown said Labour would consider for privatisation in order to provide essential funding. Mr Brown told yesterday's election press conference: "We inherited Conservative plans

we had the chance to look at the

couldn't rule it out and Margaret Beckett [shadow trade and industry spokeswoman] made that clear at the end of February."

The Budget Red Book, which sets out the Government's spending projections, came out on 26 November.

Before that, Andrew Smith, the party's transport spokesman,

white paper, we decided we ence in October. "The Tories have dreamt up a crazy new scheme to privatise the air. They want to flog off the National Air Traffic Control services... Labour will do anything we can to block this sell off... Our air is not for sale."

More than three months later, another Labour transport okesman, Kenth Bradley, told an air traffic controller who had

ber. "I would like to confirm that the Labour Party are completely opposed to the privati-sation of the National Air Traffic Control Services."

It was not until the end of February that Mrs Beckett told BBC television's On the Record that she was not ruling out privatisation.

But the Conservatives were missing the essential point yes-

terday - that it was Mr Blair who was not singing from the same song sheet as his colleagues.

On Monday, in the Sun, Mr Blair wrote: "We have no dogmatic objection to services being run in the private sector. They should be judged on a case

by case basis." Later that morning, he re-peated that message in a City speech. There is nothing in the manifesto to support that view. posed to the charge that he is out of line with his own party.



Anti-gay Tory tiptoes round his polling partner

Adrian Rogers, the Conservative candidate for Exeter, in Devon, has become strangely silent of late. And for someone who relishes his reputation as the scourge of homosexuality, he is being uncharacteristically

Usually happy to shoot from the hip, describing homosexu-ality as a "sterile, disease-ridden, God-forsaken occupation", and attractive women in the workplace as "fair game for any-body", he is making every effort to bite his lip in the run up to the General Election.

The reason is only too plain. The Labour candidate for Exeter, Ben Bradshaw, is a personable former BBC reporter, popular, a veritable Hugh Grant lookalike and a

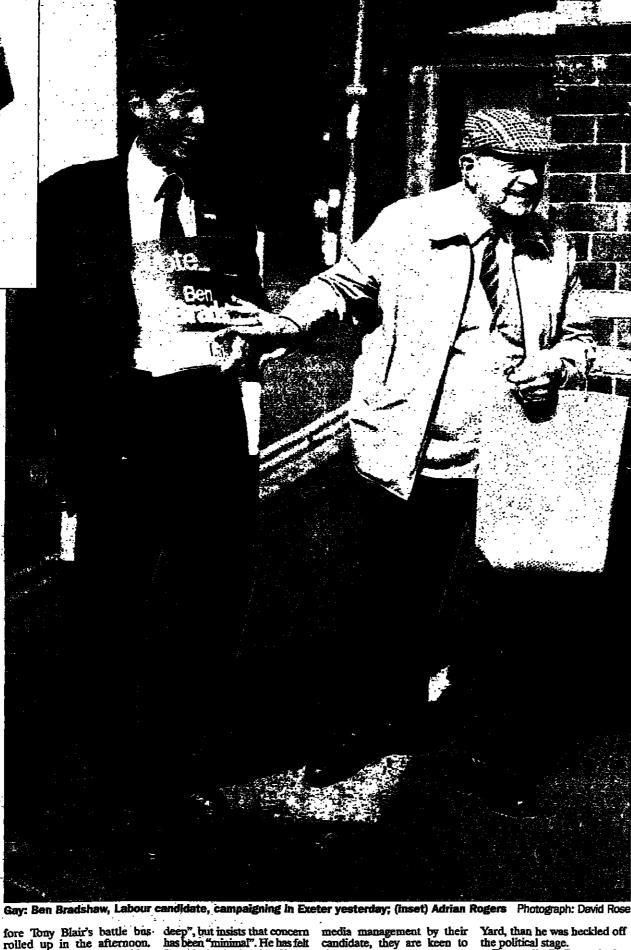
Dr Rogers cannot afford to trip himself up, but then again,

he cannot help himself. Turning down a request for an interview yesterday, he explained: "Tm a hostage for negative publicity. It's helping me being selective. We don't want had publicity. We don't some queer media person from London wrecking it."

Ironically, Matthew Parris, the gay former Tory backbencher, and now parliamentary sketch-writer with the Times, who has been known to put pen to paper on the subject of Dr Rogers' bigotry, was visiting Exeter yesterday. Coming face to face for the first time, Dr Rogers took a swipe at his critic. "You should be ashamed of your approach to me. You don't even give a man a chance for a

fair hearing." he said.

Mr Bradshaw, 36, who like
Martin Bell, another BBC man. is presenting himself as a trustworthy candidate, was out knocking on doors yesterday be-



fore Tony Blair's battle busrolled up in the afternoon. While he is not overtly making political capital out of Dr Rogers' rampant homophobia, he does admit that he is blessed

with his opposition.
"I certainly think Dr Rogers is my greatest asset," he said yesterday. Twe had letters from all parties congratulating me no, that's the wrong word - wel-

coming my honesty."
On his first day's canvass Mr Bradshaw was invited into the home of a lifelong Conservative. "She took my hand and said I'm absolutely delighted with your selection. My brother was gay in a less tolerant age and committed suicide'."

Mr Bradshaw knows that some people are prejudiced. "and it's a prejudice that runs

from the beginning that, if anything, his homosexuality would be a plus point, provided he was

open about it.

"One, it's radical," he said. "Two, it would smoke Rogers out, which it's done very successfully. And three, it would appeal to Walworth Road after the way it's been treated, that is put this in your pipe and

It is tempting to script one's own alternative manifesto for Dr Rogers, based on a selection of his most outlandish statements. In fact, it is a temptation to which the Labour Party in Exeter has succumbed. Mr Bradshaw's aides keep a file of their opponent's greatest hits

Dr Rogers on road protest-ers: "They should be gassed out of the tunnels, starved out, or whatever the police deem necessary." Dr Rogers on sex offenders: "As there is no guarantee that sex offenders will not reoffend, castration and lobotomy should be undertaken on willing people before being allowed back into community.

And so on. But Dr Rogers came out of hiding briefly yesterday. He had boped to compare his "Contract with Exeter" with Mr Blair's "Con-Trick" by way of a "warmup act" for the visiting Labour leader. But no sooner had the local GP clambered upon his which, being well trained in soap box in the city's Cathedral

Eventually, Dr Rogers' minder allowed him a few words with a journalist. He trotted out his well-rehearsed lines. Why had be not been seen out and about in the constituency earlier? "We're limited by £7,500 expenditure." Why is the previous Tory incumbent, Sir John Hannam, not visibly supporting him? "Actually, he's bought a house in the Isle of Wight." And what about the fact that his opponent is openly gay? "It's their issue, not mine. They've brought it to Exeter, not me. It's

their problem." But it may turn out to be less of a problem than Dr Rogers thinks. Mr Bradshaw's homosexuality appears to be just what the spin doctors ordered.

Welfare state caught in tax tug-of-war

Diane Coyle Economics Editor

Taxes will have to rise or the welfare state will shrink, no matter which party wins the election, according to the Institute for Fiscal Studies, an independent think-tank.

In a report published vesterday, the IFS predicts that the Government's borrowing requirement would fall this year thanks to the booming economy. But if the two main parties stick to their pledges to keep borrowing low over the longer term, either spending must be lower than planned or taxes higher.

"Either the current shape of the welfare state will be maintained and the next government will have to spend – and tax – more than planned, or the welfare state will shrink and provide fewer services to fewer people," it concludes.

The IFS calculates that despite the prospect of a rapid reduction in the gap between government revenues and spendng, either party would have to deliver a tough budget reducing borrowing by some £10bn in order to satisfy manifesto pledges.

It also cast serious doubt on the possibility of any government hitting the current spendng targets. The report calls the plans "very ambitious indeed". noting that the 0.4 per cent a year real growth in expenditure pencilled in for the next five years would be the lowest in any parliament for the past 80 years. The IPS identifies the National Health Service budget

and public-sector pay as the

have a rise in health-spending this year followed by two years of zero real growth. Not only is this far tougher than any previ-ous plans, but health-spending has also overshot its target by far in every year except 1991.

Unless taxes rise, the result will be a steady increase in private spending on services such as health and education. The report notes that Britain is a lowtax country by international standards, and virtually the only industrialised economy where the tax burden had not increased by very much since 1979.

"These are things that nobody is talking about in this campaign, said Paul Johnson, deputy director of the IFS.

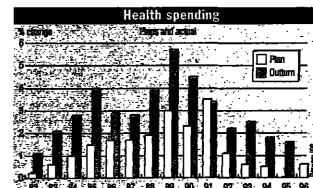
He said the Tories' planned pension reform, involving privatisation of the basic pension and creation of new personal pension funds, was particularradical and could form the model for further shrinkage of the welfare state.

The document offers some

servatives and Labour by confirming that we are better off than at the time of the last election, but are also paying an average of £7 a week more in taxes. Each pounced on the finding that best suited them.

However, it criticised both of the main parties' income-tax proposals as expensive measures that would not help the poor. "You can't help people on low incomes by cutting a tax they don't pay," said researcher Julian McRae. The IFS also found fault with Labour's plans for a minimum wage and a windfall tax, and with the Conservatives' transferable tax allowance.

The minimum wage would be of most benefit to households in the top half of the income distribution. The Tory plan to allow the non-working partner in a married couple to transfer their tax allowance to their spouse would undermine the principle of independent taxation, create a big disincentive to work, and be complex to administer.



Parties tussle over 'rising' tax burden

Fran Abrams Political Correspondent

Politicians traded increasingly personal accusations about levels of taxation yesterday as an independent report claimed that the tax burden for the average household had gone up by £7 per week since the last election.

The Prime Minister accused Labour of hypocrisy over the is-sue, while the shadow Chancellor called a press conference to claim that John Major had lied to the electorate.

At the Conservatives' morning press conference, John Major said the tax burden was "exactly the same as it was five years ago."
While there had been 22 tax

rises, as Labour claimed, there had also been 25 tax cuts elsewhere, he said. The tax rises had been necessary in the early years of the Parliament because a recession would have forced spending cuts if they had not been made, he said.
"There is a degree of

hypocrisy - and that is putting it quaintly - in what they have has been a breach of trust as they claim ... why is it that people are £1100 better off?" he said.

average tax increase was £7 per week, or £350 per year.

While a single earner couple with no children lost £10.40 a

Gordon Brown, the shadow Chancellor, said yesterday's report from the Institute of Fiscal Studies showed the tax burden had not remained the same, as Mr Major claimed. "We now know that is a lie,"

"So from the party that claims to stand up for the family, families with children have been hardest hit by the changes in taxation," he added.

Mr Brown would not give a commitment that the tax burden would not rise under Labour. The party has promised to keep to the income tax plans of the current government, and its figures show that the burden will

rise in the next two years. He said the Government's own figures showed that the direct tax burden had risen from 20.2 per cent at the last election to 20.7 per cent at this election. and the typical family was pay-ing 14.4 per cent today in indi-rect taxes compared to 12.5 per cent at the last election.

week and one with children £12.70 a week, a two earner couple with no children lost £11.20 and one with none lost £13.70. The Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, said that while the Conservatives would keep pressure

on public spending, Labour would be forced to put up tax. "It is Labour which would risk higher taxes, because they are not committed to our spending numbers for more than two years, and even then their figures do not add up there is a £12bn hole in their plans," he said.

Earlier, Mr Major had hinted that the Conservatives would rather cut income tax than keep

down Value Added Tax. "We have made it clear during the last few years that our priority was direct taxation. We do so for the reason that it gives people direct choice about how to spend their money."

On Tuesday, he said he saw no reason to believe the Conservatives would have to change

Labour steps in for branches

Fran Abrams

Labour will impose candidates on three seats where sitting MPs have stood down in the last five days. A panel of the party's National Executive Committee will choose replacements for the members despite claims earlier this week that local branches

would be allowed to decide. The revelation came amid allegations from some MPs that they had been offered seats in the House of Lords under a Labour government if they would make way for younger and more favoured candidates.

down since the general election was called three weeks ago. The final date for the formal nomination of candidates is next week. In St Helens South, Warrington South, Cumbernauld and Kilsyth and Pontefract and Castleford, local party members were allowed to vote on replacements for John Evans, Doug Hoyle, Norman Hogg and Sir Geoffrey Lofthouse. In the three remaining seats,

Kilmarnock and Loudoun.

Dudley North and Kingston-

and Stuart Randall. The NEC panel will meet to-

day to draw up shortlists of possible replacements. It is expected to interview and choose candidates for the English seats tomorrow and the Scottish seat on Saturday.

Among those who are still looking for seats are two MPs - Labour's higher education spokesman Bryan Davies and the Glasgow Central MP Mike Watson, both of whom were affected by boundary changes. Fack Dromey, deputy generalism how to be made. upon-Hull West, the national party will decide who will replace

Seven MPs have now stood Willie McKelvey, John Gilbert General Workers' Union and husband of Labour's social security spokeswoman, Harriet Harman, has also expressed an interest in standing.

Others who were shortlisted for seats but did not win included Hilary Benn, Tony Benn's son and a former councillor, Derek Scott, an economics adviser to Tony Blair, John Harman, leader of Kirklees council; and Cath Ashton, a union convener.

Last night national party spokesmen would still not con-firm how the selections were to

Tony Blair rejected Tory claims that he was "cracking up" yesterday after sailing up and down a river in a brightly-coloured boat with an election candidate who wants to introduce "softer

carpets" in schools. Eschewing the Labour leader's plans to reduce class sizes for five-, six- and seven-yearolds, another candidate promised instead to buy all schools a swimming pool.

"They're desperate people, these Conservatives," said Mr Blair, standing four-square with

the candidates. "You will see in this election that they will try to

scare and frighten people about me and the Labour Party. But it's they who are cracking up." Despite Tory protestations

and his antics aboard the 72ft barge, Mr Blair had not gone potty. And neither had the other candidates, Alex Doona and Rory Lowings, both aged six. They were accompanying Mr Blair and his wife, Cherie, aboard The Redshank, sailing back and forth along a section

of Bristol Docks to highlight Labour's commitment to re-

Vote for soft carpets and pools

Alex and Rory are standing as candidates in elections at Oldbury Court primary school. Like Mr Blair, they are standing on 1 May; unlike him, they can make wild promises to the electorate.

Rory, who is standing for the Star Wars Party, said: "If I was Prime Minister, I'd give money to every school in the world to buy a swimming pool." Then, unprompted by any

Labour spin doctors, he added: "I'd vote for Tony Blair. He'd make a good Prime Minister. Alex called for "more maths

But it wasn't all serious stuff. When asked why the Labour leader was in a barge, a party press officer replied: "The children are doing a project on transport, so the message is that Labour is committed to im-

I were Prime Minister. I'd make

the school carpets a bit softer.'

proving our transport networks."

Barges? "Well, under the Conservatives, Britain's inland waterways have been com-pletely neglected. They could take a lot of freight and passengers. We will make sure that the waterways are used for and fewer stories", adding: "If the benefit of the public."

Forsyth pours scorn on 'fiscal fantasy' of SNP

Stephen Goodwin

An attempt by the Scottish National Party yesterday to pro-mote a pensioners' package worth £12 a week for the average couple brought another withering attack on the "fiscal fantasy" of the party's forecasts for an independent Scotland. Michael Forsyth, the Secretary

of State for Scotland, said the SNP had produced a blueprint for national impoverishment and impotence. The nationalists were trying to enlist the support of voters on a false prospectus, he told

But the SNP claims it is win-

independence and will focus on the issue again today. "People have to realise they don't have such that is the scottish economy thanks to North Sea oil, and it would be proved right in its foreto stay locked into this union with England for economic reasaid Michael Russell, the SNP's chief executive.

The party believes that by burying the perception of Scot-land as a "subsidy junkie" it will build confidence in people to vote for independence. Polls have the SNP at around 25 per cent but, encouragingly for Alex Salmond and his team, another 28 per cent of Scots give the party as their second choice.

Mr Russell said Treasury fig-ures had shown the party had ning the economic argument for been right in the past about the

casts for the future.

While there is acceptance amongst economists and political parties of a Treasury figure that Scotland has contributed £27bn more to the Exchequer since 1979 than it has received. the SNP is being pressed on its assumptions for the future.

Mr Russell said a number of economists backed an SNP analysis indicating a surplus for Scotland of £12.5 bn over the next five years. Jim Walker, one of the Far East's top econ-omists and formerly with the Royal Bank of Scotland, was

making damaging use of an ap-praisal of the party's budget by Jim Stevens, Chief Economic Forecaster at the respected Fraser of Allander Institute. The SNP had inflated Scotland's true fiscal position by £18.1bn over the next four years, Mr Stevens concluded. Its assessment was "about as useful as a chocolate fireguard". But Mr Stevens, as a member of Labour's Scottish executive, is hardly an independent

in the matter. Mr Forsyth said the SNP's calculations were based on the huge oil revenues of the pre-

1986 boom years. These peaked at £12bn in 1984-1985 and, according to Mr Stevens, their like would not be seen again.

"The SNP's own accounting shows that their old fashioned public-spending plans would entail an extra £5.5bn expenditure in the first four years of separatism. Since the actual fiscal situation of a separate Scotland would be a deficit of £8.2bn, the consequences of such a programme would be national

bankruptcy," Mr Forsyth said. Andrew Welsh, the SNP vice resident, dismissed the Secretary's remarks as those of a unionist with a narrow vested interest in his job at Westminster.



by Aanonymous

campaign is a farce; fection. The raw material of it - the peeches and the visits - is ridiculous gobbledegook. Only at home, watched on TV or read in the papers - the backgrounds and obtrusions edited out and the best

bits selected - does it make any kind of sense. Mr X went here and said that, Mr Y went somewhere else and contradicted it. All clear, But it isn't like that for the Candidate. He lives with his nose pressed firmly against the absurdity of it all.

His public day started with the need for some new history. A policy had changed, but it was necessary to show that this was the consequence of some slow, deliberative process. This meant reversing the normal historical pattern, and working backwards from the change; creating a reverse path. There would have to have been meetings, conversations involving senior party figures, and past interviews whose contents could bear no other construction than the new one - all leading naturally to the present

This time the Candidate wouldn't have to bear the brunt of the questioning himself. His adopted brother, the troublesome other half of his political identity, would do that instead. The ursine Mr Brown, Gerard Depardieu to the Candidate's Tom Cruise, told the tale of meetings, conversations, colleagues and interviews. At the back Friend Bobby (the one they nicknamed the new Machiavelli) looked on, his physiognomy a study in edges. Long, sharp nose, sharp chin, sharp cheekbones. Sharp mind

tongue and eyes. Satisfied eyes. With no direct evidence that the new backward history was anything other than genuine, the London press pack let Mr Brown off with a couple of muffled groans and a small sneer.

Then the Candidate took a train for the West. This involved 15 minutes (and coffee) with the Press Association, 10 minutes (over kippers) with the Western Daily News, 10 more (toast and marmalade) with the Bristol Gazette - done by the same man-and 10 (napkin round mouth) with the oily representative of the privatised rail company. Meanwhile - kipperless - his speech-writer Paul, sat within fact-checking distance, consulting his laptop for West Country statistics. Bristol docks at 11 for a boat trip. Mrs Candidate ("Sheree, not Sherry! as in Demee!") was in nautical colours. Her navy blue and white-striped outlit with yachting shoes sug-

gested an act of occupational empathy rivalling Marie Antoinette's dressing up as a rustic shepherdess. Except that Mrs Candidate's face was cager and vulnerable; completely lacking the brassiness of the happily

The trip though, was happily artificial. The Candidate's boat, stuffed to the gunwales with gap-toothed seven-year-olds (on a transport project, for Chris-

en-year-olds (on a transport project to be sakes!), made a few lazy circles around a bigger boat carrying the press. Thank God, thought the Candidate, children aren't self-conscious, they don't blame you for their own embarrassment like journalists do. But big A, the press officer, sat under the cowling - his face a blushing mask of discomfiture. This one was for the photographers, that man

tribe of cheerful cannibals, who live absolutely for their own pictures alone. Imagine the boys from Lord of the Flies never being rescued and actually growing up on that island, and you've grasped how snappers are. They push, elbow, kick and punch without rancour or had feeling. No one is safe.

In Basildon the day before, an old lady hit the deck. When the Candidate moves, they move backwards in front of him, preventing him from seeing those who he is supposed to be visiting, and 6 Snappers push,

elbow, kick and shielding him completely from their sight. Yet when you see the pictures at home, the phopunch without tographer isn't there. It's like rancour. No one is a beautiful landscape seen from a high-speed locomotive. safe. In Basildon You think it's wonderful. But all the person actually living in an old lady hit the that timbered farmhouse sees is the bloody train whizzing deck. 🤊

past, making a noise from hell. Yet all day the Candidate had to smile and wave, turn, grasp tillers and shake hands for the cameras. As he did when, a mile downstream of where he had got on, he got off again, to be greeted by a vision in powder blue - heavily rouged and lipsticked - the former "Red" Dawn MP (firebrand no longer. her past somehow dissolved, like a dream sequence from a film) standing on the steps of the quay, awaiting her leader. "This way!

Smile!" yelled the snappers. ow of a Devon cathedral, the Candidate met the first real people of the day, and rendered them his GP's speech about making things better. Above him, in the sunlit window of the fourth floor of the Royal Clarence Hotel, a young chambermaid leaned against the sill and gave an absent-minded clap.



Ashdown's 'open' mission closed up

Barrie Clement

Paddy Ashdown's crusade to talk to all and sundry without fear or favour, whatever their politics, wasn't quite what it was

and other interested parties at the Waldegrave Girls' School in Twickenham wasn't entirely

Debarred from the Ashdown presence was a mother who ap-

parently turned up on spec and unacceptably large class sizes in eral Democrats hold responsi-

bility through the local council. But Deidre Razzall, ex-chair cracked up to be yesterday.

In fact an "open circle" of education specialists, parents

But Deidre Razzall, ex-chair of the council education committee, was having none of it. You are just here to make a political point," she told Mrs Sims.

Ms Razzall thought Mrs Sims had been sent as a "plant" by the Conservative Party in an attempt to disrupt the proceedings.

was going to vote - presumably further evidence that she was a Tory. "I'm not trying to make a political point. I live over the road and saw the Liberal Democrats' coach arriving. I

came over to see if I could join

the meeting." A likely story thought Ms Razzall who pointed out that ing were politically diverse, "invited" and there to discuss

Mrs Sims refused to give her further and higher education. rst name or divulge how she Alas, Mr Ashdown's mission to spend what he self-consciously described as "quality time" with the electorate, did not extend to Mrs Sims, who never got to see the Lib-Dem leader.

Anyway, Mrs Sims was told that class sizes were nothing to do with the council. It was all the Government's fault. Inside the meeting Mr Ash-

down asked the 20-strong circle

what they would do if they were Gillian Shephard, Secretary of

State for Education. Most of their replies cost money.

The financial plight of

students was later brought home to Mr Ashdown on a visit to South Devon College, at Torquay. On the wall above the photocopier was a message to students: "It is a criminal offence to photocopy currency. This area is under securit video surveillance." Reported ly some of the students had been proffering photocopied tenners at the local pub.

media watch

First Tory TV pitch targets changelings

By Paul McCann Media Correspondent

The Conservative Party made an undisguised pitch for the Essex man voter in its first Party Election Broadcast of the cam-

paign last night. With four more broadcasts to come from the Conservatives, five from the Labour Party, three from the Liberal Democrats and a number from fringe parties, broadcasters are predicting that an electorate al-ready bored with the campaign would be turning away from

The broadcast was less hardhitting than its previous film of a woman crying red tears to a background of news reports about a Labour Government. But it did continue the theme of looking to a future under

Labour. The Party asked nine actors to imagine they were taking part in a futuristic vox pop one, two or three years into a Labour government. They were then to improvise to camera the problems they would be living under, apposedly unscripted.

Each actor was fortunate to come up with a set of worries that match exactly what the Tories want to raise in the mind of undecided voters: can you trust Blair on the economy?

"It was a difficult decision because I voted Tory before," said a woman in her twenties filmed in front of a stark tower block.

"But I thought they really had learned their lesson, the Labour Party, the Tories had that slogan ... Britain is booming don't let Labour mess it up and I thought no, they won't do that, Blair won't do that. But they

The broadcast, which was finished on Tuesday by the Con-



In the future: An actor imagines life under Labour

subtly take on the sleaze factor: "Like most people we thought fresh blood, you know," said a man in a leather jacket. "We believed all that stuff about the government running out of steam and sleaze ... and well it seems the further we get into the Labour term the more it was just change for change's sake

The actors chosen represented what the Tories think ordinary people look and sound

The accents were all Estuary English - flat, slightly cockney. The women were overly madeup with their hair dyed or straggly, a couple of them were overweight. The only man in a suit and tie was wearing a de-cidedly threadbare jacket while two of the men wore leather

These were not sleek Coun-

ty Tories. Each actor was filmed in front of a bleak, urban environment like a concrete shopping centre or by the barred windows of a building. Each was accompanied by lots of background traffic noise.

In between actors a black screen showed the words "After one year of a Labour government" while a low-level wind, which one observer described as "the sound of a nu-

clear winter", whistled. The Conservative Party hopes that the language used by the actors is the language being used in pubs now by people making up their mind how to

It is convinced by focus group research that there is still a substantial part of the electorate who have doubts about Labour returning to tax and spend poli-

think Christine Hamilton is my best campaign asset. I am used to be being ambushed in places like Biafra but never anything like that -Martin Bell

I am for Britain and I think we are giving too much away to cent of the fish is ours -

If and when he is shown to have misbehaved - but only if and when he is shown to have misbehaved - then he should face the House of Commons - John Major on

I'd do anything to get Major back...thinking back, things were going quite well . . . things were nice and calm -Repentant Labour *voters from the future", in the Conservative election broadcast They put tax up almost



QUOTES

OF THE

straight after they got in, when they promised they wouldn't - A "voter from the future" on the Labour

I think it is quite wrong. It's stupid and there is no necessity for it. Liberal Democrats should have the opportunity to vote for a Lib-aral Democrat candidate. We have denied them the right to do so. That is quite wrong and against the democratic principle - Sir Cyril Smith on the withdrawal of the Liberal Democrat candidate in Tatton

Compiled by Ben Summers



The Independent is on the World Wide Web at last, with a general election web site run jointly with

ndependent/Virgin Election '97 is a highly interactive site, intended, above all else, to encourage informed

it cuts through the mass of facts and figures that make up everyone else's election "coverage" on the web to expose the Issues that really matter to intelligent discussion.

To join us, key in the following location: http://www.virgin.net/Independent97/

Britain on its way to being a police state'

Fran Abrams
Political Correspondent

The spectre of fascism entered the election yesterday when leaders of a campaign run by the actress Vanessa Redgrave and her brother Corin said Britain was well on the way to becoming

a police state. Only vigilance stood between us and the death camps of Nazi Germany, the group's press launch heard. Many politicians were "pinstripe fascists" and somewhere in Methodist Central Hall, Westminster, there were ordinary citizens who could easily end up running

death camps.
The Charter for Basic Rights. which calls for the repeal of the Police, Criminal Justice, Asylum and Prevention of Terrorism Acts and the trades union laws, is fielding just one candidate in Tooting, South London.

In other areas it asks voters to question their candidates on human rights issues, but suggests that the Liberal Democrats' views are nearer to state." its own than those of the other

Mr Redgrave said provisions

in the Police Bill which allowed

the bugging and burgling of private homes "constitute the



(below) Saffron Burrows

Redgrave and

"You may think there is no fascist party here that com-mands the kind of support the National Front has in France. But here we have pinstripe fascism. There are plenty of sinews and apparatus of a police politicians whose beliefs are

The Charter's candidate, actor and lecturer Jan Koene, said people should consider how the Third Reich was able to take power in Germany.
"I'm not saying Britain in '97 is the same as Germany in the

open fascists yet. But it had to come from somewhere, and that's our warning."
His election address warns voters to talk in whispers or sign language if they have to consult

'30s. We don't have as many

Under the Police Bill the police can bug the office. Or your doctor's surgery. Or they can tap your telephone. There are five times more telephone taps per head in Britain than in the USA or Canada.

The real messages of Britain that stick with me aren't in the manifestoes," Mr Koene said. They are the homeless in Charing Cross Road, the prison ships off the coast, one in four out of work. The gap between the rich and poor is worse than it has been since Dickens."

The group claims the support of Harold Pinter, and although Ms Redgrave was in America yesterday the actress Saffron Burrows, who started in Karaoke, was at the launch to

المكذا من الأصل

This time, prime target is Mondeo Man



I think the Labour leader is insincere 🤊



As soon as Major says something, Blair backs down 🤊

Steven Marriott

A battle is looming in Middle England Reddirch, the Hereford and Worcester town which grew next to one of the country's wealthiest medieval abbeys and which became the needle-making capital of the British Empire is now at the centre of the poand votes of the electorate.

a little of this support, suggest-

ing such backing may be quite

Steven Marriott, 28, an engi-

neer, was switching to new

Labour but will now probably vote for John Major. "I thought

that [Tony Blair] had a list of 10

things he was going to do but at

the moment he is just bickering

jor says something, Blair backs

down. I think he's panicking and

with John Major. As soon as Ma-



61,640 voters - the town was formerly part of the Mid Worces-

needs a notional swing of 3.2 per nomenon of Mondeo Man has Tax has increased and there is ris-Wavering voters plump

for the devil they know

A major focus for them is what

is known as "Mondeo Man", the

house-owning car-owning for-

mer Thatcherite voter disillu-

sioned under John Major.

For some observers

them out next time." Local government worker Craig Coates, 37, will back new Labour "reluctantly" - citing health as a key issue, a recurring theme in *The Indepen*dent's focus group. "Tony Blair is the best man for the job and the best Labour leader in my lifetime. But I'm not quite sure about the rest of them - they are keeping quiet at the moment."

he has disappointed me." Another switcher, Mark Red-Roger Prost, a former British Gas travel manager, and another switcher, believes Mr Blair has been "excellent" durfern. 29, also an engineer, will still vote for Labour but is disappointed that Blair is not having a television debate with the ing the first part of the cam-

The first signs appeared yesterday that Tony Blair's apparent willingness to shift ground under criticism has undermined man for the job." But he takes lieves any Labour problems over devolution will not matter a practical view of a Labour win. "If they cock it up we will vote in towns like Redditch. "We had a saying at work, 'Let's look at the wider issues - how will it af-fect me?'. People vote for what's

best for them. It's also about

celebrities and Tony Blair is the

man of the time.' Another likely Labour voter, warehouse operative Adrian in the focus group, is wary about pledges by Labour and the Tories not to put up taxes. "Whoever gets in will have a hard time," he said.

Susan Lovett, a former sales consultant, says what she regards as Mr. Blair's evasions

swer the questions. I think he

England. It's typical of the kind

of seat where people feel most

Michael Streeter reports from the key battlefield of Redditch

indicator group to the fate of this was underlined last week when

election. One Labour source the party's deputy leader, John claimed: "Reddich is Middle Prescott kicked off the first of his

"Redditch is Middle Prescott, kicked off the first of his

national New Labour Shows in

the town's Palace Theatre.

Nor do new Labour's tax promises persuade Denise Sparkes, 35, a dressmaker and supermarket worker, "The Tonies have put up taxes but the have now done their worst. Labour could put up a whole load of different taxes."

None of the group regards sleaze as a key issue in the election, which instead seems to hinge on trust - or lack of it. David Bignell, 51, a former British Telecom engineer, sums up the views of those intending to stay with the Conservatives. "It's better the devil you know."

AROUND THE REGIONS

High ground holds key as reds aim to take the blue citadels

"I'm giving them five years to turn the country around. I have always voted Tory, but not any more. Labour can't do any worse, so we might as well give them a chance. Tony Blair has got his priorities right," said Carole Shewring.

Mrs Shewring, 41, works as an assistant in a special school, has two children and her hushand was a military police officer for 22 years. This is significant, because RAF Cosford is one of the few centres of population in her constituency, Wrekin. This new seat is named after a hill rather than a town as it does not boast a settlement larger than the Wolverhampton commuter villages of Shifnal and Albrighton.

Mrs Shewring is one of many "switchers" Labour canvassers need to overturn the new seat's notional Conservative majori-

ty of more than 7,000.

Across the traditionally blue hills of Shropshire, Labour cannot hope to wrestle Ludlow away from Christopher Gill, one of the Euro-sceptic rebels



Julian Critchley, the disillusioned pro-European Tory MP who is retiring there. Nor can they dare hope for Derek Conway's constituency of Shrewsbury and Aicham, although the swing required, 10 per cent, is well within what the opinion polls suggest.

So the real battleground in Shropshire is Wrekin, which has John Major left Buckingham been split from the new town of Telford, and which needs an 8 per cent swing. Until recentit was right at the end of the list of Labour targets. It seems unlikely that Labour could even have a chance in an area of small market towns and rural villages, not to mention four grant-maintained and two grammar schools. But perhaps Mrs Shewring is councillor, he is an outsider to

are changing their allegiance. Peter Bradley, the Labour candidate, is so enthused by the reaction he gets that he sails close to breaking Tony Blair's injunction against complacency. "The reception I have had has been fantastic. Of course, we were campaigning at 100mph less than five minutes after

Palace to call the election." This does not seem to worty Peter Bruinvels, the Conservative candidate and former MP for Leicester East, whose campaign only recently got into gear after his formal adoption on Monday – although he has been the prospective candidate since last year. Like Mr Bradley, a Westminster Labour

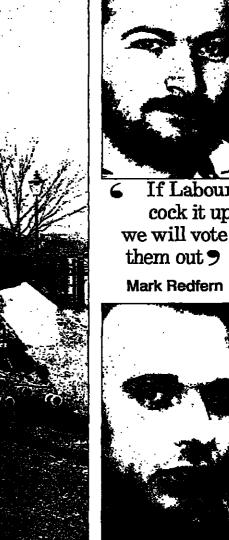
spector since losing his job in 1992. During his time in Parliament in the early Eighties, he was well known as a maverick right-winger, who once volunteered to be a public hangman.

He said; "The Wrekin is not rarginal seat, it is a safe seat. This constituency fits me like a glove and it is a very long shot

Jeff Parkinson, a butcher who has lived in the constituency for 35 years, has voted for the Tories all his life and intends to stick with them. There have been times when I have moaned at the government - but it's not enough to make me change my mind. At least you know where you are with the Conservative party. I

would rather go with the devil I know than the devil I don't." But if Mr Bradley's doorstep campaign continues at 100mph, Mr Bruinvels may find his glove a tight fit on 1 May.

> Amy Bould Shropshire Star



Whoever gets in will have a hard time 🤊

If Labour

cock it up

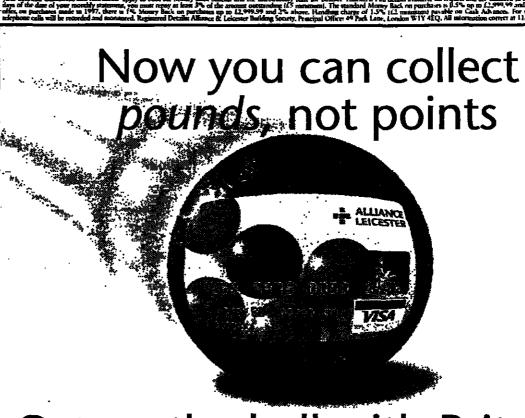
Adrian Blick

Photograph: Brian Harris Conservative Association chairman Frank Myers is heartened by the current boom in the town and encouraged by the way his party won a borough

council by-election on 13 March - albeit by just two votes. "It would bode well for the of the country if we could win Redditch," he said. But he

seat, we're right on a knife edge, on the front line."

Just how tough is shown by The Independent's focus group of disaffected Tory voters below. Set up last autumn, some of the group have already decided to switch to Labour; none has switched to the Liberal De-



years ago to the day. Nearly 30

per cent of households own two

cars, above the national average

of 24 per cent, and the number

perity in what was once the ar- per cent, below the United King-

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Tear gas and gun fire as a brutal trap is sprung



For five joyful minutes yesterday morning, Etienne Tshisekedi, Zaire's veteran opposition leader, must have known how Gandhi felt. As the tear gas thinned over Mandela Roundabout, the diminutive "Ti-Ti"

victory sign, marching up Kisan-gani Street towards his first day of work at the prime min-

President Mobutu Sese Seko's soldiers, who had spent the morning blocking and bludemerged from a delirious geoning Mr Tshisekedi's supcrowd, hands extended in the porters, let him pass. One trap was sprung.

detachment - led Kongolo "Saddam Hussein" Mobutu, the president's son - even began clearing a way to help him through. Heartened by this display of reconciliation, the crowd cheered louder still. Then, only 300 yards short of his goal, the

As a fresh barrage of tear gas flooded the street, armoured cars screamed through the panicked crowd, pouring automatic fire into the air. The Prime Minister-designate staggered gamely on for a few yards begamely on for a few yards before he was grabbed by soldiers

On Thesday night, while rebel
forces were bombarding the and bundled into a car. His pa-

rade was over, and he never even made it to work. Having dabbled with democracy and reform, President Mobutu is reverting to a style of rule be seems more comfortable with.

southern city of Lubumbashi,

Mr Mobutu declared a state of tons to give Mr Tshisekedi's supemergency and appointed semor officers to govern the five major regions still in govern-

Yesterday morning, as Lubumbasin fell, government troops in the capital, Kinshasa, were using tear gas, rifle butts and ba-

Government troops ambush Zaire's Prime Minister as US declares Mobutu 'a creature of history' porters a demonstration of what this state of emergency meant in practice. From the time they left their leader's house until the

final rout three hours later, the crowds were subjected to repeated assaults at the hands of Mobuta's troops. The unrest marked the end

of a long week for Mr Tshiseke-di, nominated as Prime Minister by the parliamentary opposition just eight days ago. Initially, Mr Mobutu's followers agreed, hoping to use the veteran democrat as a diploadvancing rebels. Only one day later the Prime Minister-designate announced he planned to dissolve the unelected parliament and prepare for elections, meanwhile appointing an interim cabinet that contains no Mobutist ministers.

Terrified at what amounted to a non-military coup, Mobutu supporters announced last weekend that they would no longer support Mr Tshisekedi as Prime Minister. On Monday and Thesday, opposition students took to the streets to prevent MPs from making good their promise to sack Mr Ishisekedi. Yesterday, flushed with success, they were to escort their candidate to his first day at work.

So at 10.20am a procession of several thousand young men left the Prime Minister's house, waving the palm leaves that symbolise victory in Zaire. Less than 10 minutes later they were given their first taste of tear gas and rifle butts.

Foreign journalists were singled out for particular attention throughout the day. In the first attack a television cameraman and photographer were seized by soldiers, beaten up and robbed of all their equipment. Later, as gunfire echoed over Mandela Roundabout, Zaireans

were appealing for the foreign media to bear witness to their country's shame.

"You see how democracy is in Zaire," said Michel Chel-K, a member of Mr Tshisekedi's Democratic Union for Social Progress. There is the legal Prime Minister in the street and they gas and shoot at him. Kabila should come now."

Early afternoon President Mobutu used emergency powers to appoint a new prime minister, General Likulia Balongo. With his supporters dispersed and the army in control of the



style of government streets, Mr Tshisekedi was re-

leased and sent home. Yet the biggest loser in yes terday's street battles will be Mr Mobutu himself.

The United States yesterday stated that Mr Mobutu, its long time ally, should step down, and indicated it is trying to arrange a place of exile for a man the White House said was about to become "a creature of history".

The message was the clear est sign so far - and perhaps the decisive one - that the ruler who took power 32 years ago with the support of the CIA has now been irrevocably abandoned by his erstwhile Western patrons. Washington's goal now is a 🐞 peaceful transition to democratic elections and a properly representative government.

Rebels march into second city

Lubumbashi, Reuter ---Laurent Kabila's rebels entered Lubumbashi yesterday, cheered as liberators in Zaire's second city, their biggest prize to date. writes Richard Meares.

Crowds cheered "Kabila, Kabila" as the rebels arrived in the southern suburbs from the direction of the Zambian border, once the intense gunfire that marked the front line had moved on towards the centre of the copper city of one million people.

Residents said yesterday afternoon that the rebels had not yet entered the post office square that marks the city centre, though Zairean soldiers were nowhere to be seen. Rebels said they had met fierce resistance some 15km (10 miles) out of town, after which they had marched in.There had been heavy mortar and qunfire through the early

afternoon. "We are fighters who have come to liberate you," one rebel soldier told gleeful staff at the city's top hotel, the Kar-avia. The staff provided fizzy red soda pop to quench the thirst of the more than a dozen rebels lined up around the hotel.

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Seaside sojourn allows Yeltsin to reflect on Russia's murky depths

New guard left in charge of ailing and corrupt

economy, writes **Phil Reeves**

Moscow — Three months ago, the news would have been greeted worldwide as further evidence that Boris Yeltsin was about as physically capable of governing Russia as Lenin, hose corpse still lies in a mausoleum in Red Square.

Not any more. The Kremlin's announcement yesterday that Mr Yeltsin is going off for yet an-other break caused but a flick-er of interest. Both Russians and the international community seem persuaded at last that the president is back in business.

Later this month he will set off for his customary spring holiday at the Black Sea resort of Sochi where he will spend two weeks. It will conclude a typically frantic two months in which Mr Yeltsin - who tends to govern in sporadic and flamboyant bursts - has overhauled his government, agreed terms for a charter on Russia's relationship with Nato, and set a fresh course to-

wards the free market. For once, when he gazes across his colossal fiefdom, Mr Yeltsin may be tempted to reflect that it has improved, at least when compared with last year. The Chechen war has ended, although tensions still simmer away between Moscow and the new separatist government in Grozny. Fears that Communists and nationalists would seize control of the Kremlin evaporated. Infighting among the government's big guns has

subsided into bickering. There have been thousands of strikes over Russia's \$9bn (£5.6bn) wages and pensions arrears, but no large scale unrest. Mr Yeltsin is not a healthy man, but he also does not appear to be at death's door any longer. The possibility that he might ful-fil his term - unthinkable only a few weeks ago, when he had causes guffaws of disbelief.

But the calm is misleading, for the landscape is littered with lethal snares. The armed forces remain on the verge of collapse; the government, to the dismay of the International Monetary Fund, is still failing to collect its revenues - last month it only raised 40 per cent of its tax target. Russia remains littered with vast, filthy, Soviet-era industries that are either producing unsaleable products or have shut down.

Those businesses that are making money are heavily infiltrated by criminals, many of



Say it with flowers: Boris Yeltsin presenting Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin with 59 roses for his birthday yesterday

Photograph: AP

significant shorts

First flight out of Iraq takes pilgrims to Saudi

In the first international flight by an Iraqi aircraft since 1991, an aeroplane carrying 104 passengers on the Haj pilgrimage arrived unexpectedly yesterday at the Red Sea port of Jeddah in Saudi Arabia.

The flight may be in part a response by Iraq to the hard line on sanctions expressed by the United States Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, who said that American policy would change only with an alteration to the regime in Iraq. The aircraft, whose pilgrim passengers were all over 50, had taken off from Rashid airbase outside Baghdad. After it crossed the Iraqi frontier, the flight was escorted by two Saudi Arabian fighters. Saudi Arabia is obligated to receive Haj pilgrims bound for the boly cities of Mecca and Medina.

Patrick Cobur Patrick Cobum

India and Pakistan in talks

India and Pakistan held confidence-building talks yesterday amid rising hopes that the long-time focs will be able to defuse half a century of tension.

The foreign ministers of the two countries said they

were pleased with their first talks since bilateral negotiations resumed last month after a three-year hiatus marred by diplomatic sniping and an insurgency in divided

Cartoon costs editor freedom

A Turkish court imposed a prison sentence and fine on the editor of a magazine for publishing a cartoon which, it said. insulted Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan, according to the Anatolian news agency. Kutlu Esendemir, of Leman magazine, was given a three-and-a-half month jail sentence and fined 2,300,000 Turkish lira (£11). Reuters - Ankara

PNG copper mine targeted
Mercenaries hired to put down a secessionist rebellion in
Papua New Guinea planned to capture a vast copper mine
on Bougainville island with a force of 1,200 soldiers, a public inquiry was told.

Brigadier-General Jerry Singirok, the sacked PNG army commander, told the inquiry into last month's aborted mercenary operation that British-based military consultancy Sandline International wanted to make the mine the focus of its operation. Reuters - Port Moresby

Let's hear it for the girls A judge has ruled that a man's breasts just don't have the

same sex appeal as a woman's.

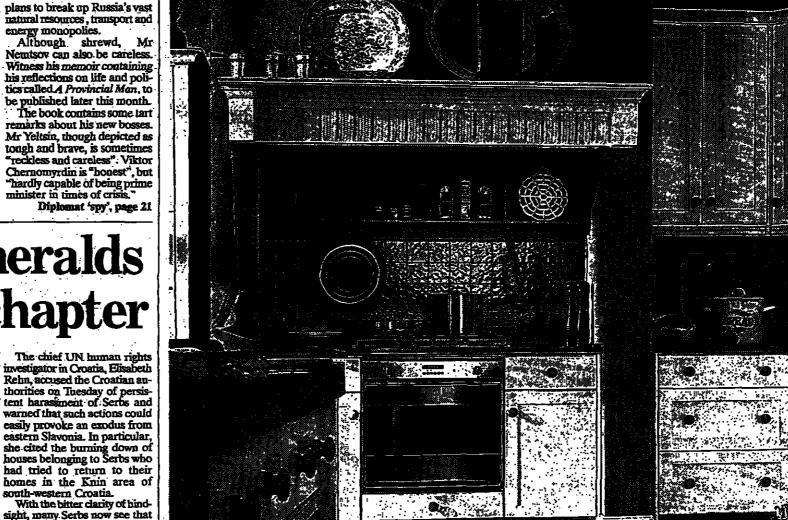
The decision on Tucsday by federal Judge John S Martins upheld a 1995 city law banning female topless dancing in residential areas. "One does not have to be a psychologist or a sociologist to recognise that," he said, "if it were known that 10 topiess women were walking down Park Avenue and 10 topless men were walking down Madison Avenue, the effect on the traffic on Park Avenue would be substantially greater than on Madison Avenue."

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revolt's final chapter Tony Barber

whom work hand-in-hand with retired paratrooper general,

Alexander Lebed, and way

above Mr Yeltsin himself, who

However, support for the ex-governor of Nizhny Novgorod seems certain to wither. Millions

of Russians - already struggling

to survive five years of economic

collanse - are unlikely to take

kindly to government plans to

overhand their housing subsidies. Already the powerful energy

energy monopolies.

Although shrewd,

lobby in Moscow is squaring up

was seventh.

corrupt officials. Despite signs

that Russia's moribund econo-

my may at last be reviving,

moves are afoot for a deeper

union with the even more depressed Belarus, which could

prove a heavy economic burden. The task of overseeing this

messy situation while Mr Yeltsin

is on holiday falls to his new gov-

emment and particularly its new

reformers whose rames the ap-further yesterday with the apreformers whose ranks swelled

as presidential adviser on foreign

affairs. He will be working along-

side the man who has become

the dapper public face of the

Kremlin, presidential spokes-

Boris Nemtsov, who shares the

number two position in gov-

ernment with his fellow free

marketeer, Anatoly Chubais.

Mr Nemtsov's first few weeks as First Deputy Prime Minister

have paid dividends. Yesterday

a poll by the All-Russian Pub-

lic Opinion Centre named him as Russia's most popular politi-

cian - fractionally ahead of the

Croatia poll heralds

Captain of the new class is

man, Sergei Yastrzhembsky.

Europe Editor

In the desolate, war-scarred towns of eastern Slavonia, the final flame of Serb resistance to Croatian rule is flickering out, almost six years after the region exploded in a fireball of rebel-lion. Voters in eastern Slavonia will cast ballots on Sunday in local elections that will pave the way for the Serb enclave's full and permanent reintegration into Croatia by July.

The elections herald the end

of a Serb revolt which broke out iu spring 1991 and led to Europe's most violent conflict since 945. The rebellion, backed by President Slobodan Milosevic of serbia and his armed forces, was inspired partly by the Serbs' fear of persecution in a newly independent Croatia, and partly by the dream of hiving off Serb-populated parts of Croatia and lorging a Greater Serbian state.

Nowadays, that dream lies in ruins, shattered by the crushing defeats which President Franjo Tudiman's arroy inflicted on the Serbs in the summer of 1995. For the Serbs of eastern

Sizvonia, the future holds the prospect not of independence but of minority status in a country with a poor track record of promoting civil rights and protecting ethnic minorities. About 120,000 Serbs live in

eastern Slavonia, including tens of thousands who fled, or were driven out of, other Serb-held darts of Croatia during the offensives of 1995. According to officials in the United Nations transitional administration, which has supervised eastern Slavonia since January 1996, up to 25,000 Serbs may leave the



Future target: A boy with a toy gun studies election posters

region, fleeing across the Danube to Serbia, rather than wait for Croatia to take over in

The refugees are certain to include unrepentant extreme nationalists as well as policemenand paramilitary fighters impli-cated in war crimes. Yet such groups make up only a minority of eastern Slavonia's population, and the UN administrator, Jacques-Paul Klein, is confident that most ordinary Serbs will not abandon the region.

Vojislav Stanimirovic, a moderate who leads the Independent Serb Democratic Party, a bloc formed to contest Sunday's elections, agrees that a majority of Serbs will stay and try to build new lives. "They have little choice, since they have nowhere else to go. Serbia cannot help us much any more,"he said.

The chief UN human rights investigator in Croatia. Elisabeth Rehn, accused the Croatian authorities on Tuesday of persistent harassment of Serbs and warned that such actions could easily provoke an exodus from eastern Slavonia. In particular, she cited the burning down of houses belonging to Serbs who had tried to return to their homes in the Knin area of south-western Croatia.

With the bitter clarity of hindsight, many Serbs now see that President Milosevic did his kinsfolk in Croatia few favours when he incited their nationalist passions in 1991. They now have the worst of both worlds, encountering suspicion or hostility in Creatia and indifference rejection in Serbia.

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As happened in the Serb-pop-ulated suburbs of Sarajevo last ear, Serb hardliners in eastern Slavonia are trying to provoke an exodus of ordinary Serbs by spreading rumours of imminent Croatian revenge attacks. Tens of thousands of Croat refugees, displaced from eastern Slavonia in 1991, are expected to resettle the region after July.

Many such Croats undoubtedly have harrowing memories of 1991. Few could ever forget the Serbs' ruthless destruction of the leafy Danube town of Vukovar and the subsequent massacre of Croat civilians.

Still, the Croat government has solemnly promised the UN and Western powers to protect the Serbsafter eastern Slavonia's reintégration.

Whether Croatia will honour that promise will become clearer after the 5,000-strong UN

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NOW ON

Food for thought



vote on troops to Albania ... but at a price

the mission.

President Scalfaro, the supreme arbiter in Italy's politics, include

asking Mr Prodi to tender his esignation or, which is more

likely, sending him to parlia-ment for a vote of confidence,

in order to determine whether

his 11-month-old government

The split has highlighted the

vulnerability of Mr Prodi's

coalition to Refoundation's

casting votes on a difficult do-

mestic agenda. These include a

drive to reduce Italy's social

spending to prepare the coun-

try for entry into Europe's

planned single currency.

Refoundation says it will

vote as long as it is not on Al-

bania. But the coalition party

leaders now want a thorough review of the stormy alliance in

order to assess whether the

hard left can be brought into

line on key economic policies.

for voting with the government.

What we have to do now is

stands or falls.

Paul Holmes

Rome - The Italian Chamber of Deputies yesterday gave its approval to the initiative of the Prime Minister. Romano Prodi, to deploy Italian troops in a multinational force in Albania. The Chamber approved the force, to be led by Italy, by a vote of 503 to 85, with seven ab-

Mr Prodi won the vote at the cost of a damaging rift with his hard left allies. Facing the stiffest political challenge in 11 months in office, he staved off an immediate government crisis when the centre-right op-position Freedom Alliance said it would vote with his centre-left coalition on a joint motion to



Prodi: May ask president to decide his government's fate

deploy the force. But it exacted a high price for voting with the government, forcing Mr Prodi into a humiliating ad-mission that he was not able to muster a majority of his own on the policy after key ally Communist Refoundation said it would vote "no".

Addressing the lower Chamber of Deputies, Mr Prodi said he would ask President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro to decide his fate if his key allies in the Communist Refoundation failed to back him in the vote to deploy the troubled Balkan state.

Prodi wins China moves to squash dissent



down: Hong Kong pro-democracy protesters, pictured during a demonstration last summ

Hong Kong

Hong Kong's incoming government yesterday confirmed its critics' worst fears when it made clear that draconian curbs will be imposed on the operations of political organisations and the right to protest after the handover of the colony to China at the end of June.

The office of Tung Chee-Hwa, Chief Executive of the incoming government, issued what it described as a "public consultation document on civ-il liberties and social order" setting out a programme for back Mr Prodi in any confidence reviving some of the more restrictive curbs on the rights to dissent which were scrapped by the outgoing colonial adminis-tration and introducing measures which appear to be squarely targeted at weakening Hong Kong's large pro-democseek a confidence vote on the

racy organisations.

The document was described as "consultative". But it ofgovernment's programme. The vote must be on precise issues and not general matters," said the Italian Foreign Minister, fered no options for consideration. Instead, it set out the various proposals made by Chi-Lamberto Dini, leader of the nese advisory bodies who had previously indicated that Hong Kong's relatively recent spate of centrist Italian Renewal party. The opposition supports the idea of sending a force to Albania. But it exacted a high price human rights law reform would have to be clawed back.

Presenting the document,

Hong Kong's new government says it will restrict political freedoms

committed "to continued protection of human rights and personal freedoms". But he underlined the need to "strike a balance between civil liberties and social stability, personal rights and social obligations, individual interests and the common good'.

Reaction to the proposed changes has been swift. Albert Ho, the spokesman of the De-

10 April 1997

mocratic Party, Hong Kong's grey areas. He singled out con-largest party whose operations cern over the definition of "nawould be curtailed under the law reforms, said: "If all the proposals were put into statute, there would be flagrant violations of human rights."

Allen Lee, leader of the Liberal Party, which supports the incoming administration, thought the proposals were balanced but said they contained

tional security", a phrase peppering the document at points where prohibitions on

political activity are mentioned. Chris Patten, the Governor, questioned whether a "genuine consultation process" would be allowed. He challenged the new administration to say it would withdraw the proposals

if public opinion were shown to be hostile.

Mr Suen stressed that changes would be made as China's parliament, the National People's Congress (NPC), had decreed that Hong Kong's public order laws contravened the Basic Law or mini-constitution for the territory.

However, Mr Patten said, the NPC is not Moses bring-

COLLECTORS

LARRY FEIGN

ing the tablets down from the top of the mountain". He main-tained that its rulings could be changed. The amendments attracting

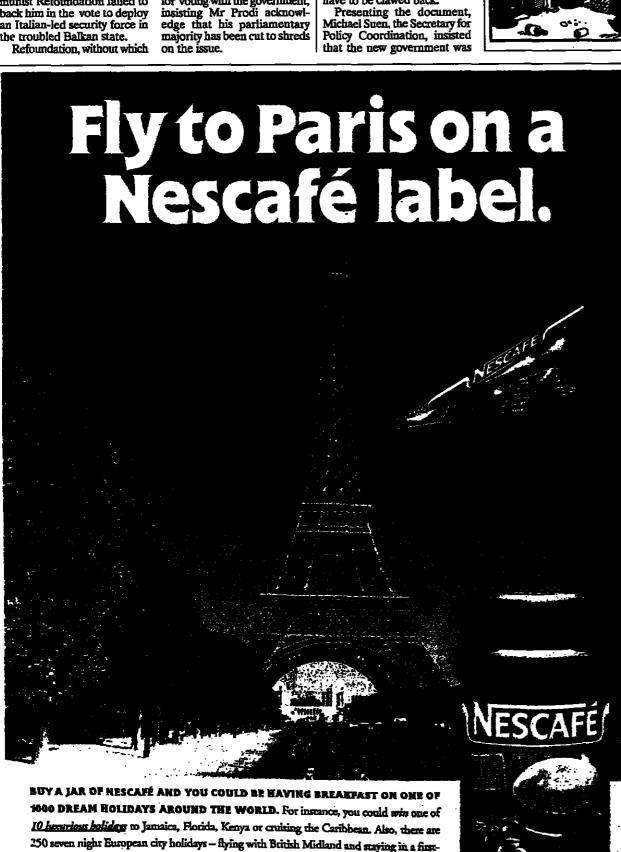
most attention relate to the right to hold demonstrations and the right of political organisations to associate with overseas bodies and individuals.

The proposals would revive old laws giving the police wide powers to ban or curtail demonstrations of more than 30 people and, in general, would make it difficult to hold demonstrations without giving seven days notice. All of the colony's biggest demonstrations in recent times have been organised in response to events and at much less than seven days notice, al-though the police have powers to prevent their organisation. Under the new proposals.

special permission could be granted within 48 hours but not less than that.

Political organisations would be banned from all international contacts on the grounds that "Hong Kong is extremely vulnerable to external forces". The Democratic Party, for example, is heavily dependent on funding from overseas Chinese

The proposals also seek to weaken the recently introduced Bill of Rights which ensures that other laws have to fulfill human rights criteria.



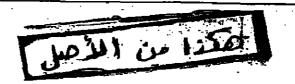
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Ashamed Australia fails to steer clear of sleaze

Howard clean-up stalls as MPs face charges, writes Robert Milliken

Sydney — There is no sign of a Martin Bell in white armour riding to the rescue. But Australia is proving that Britain is not alone with its worries about

The Australian government was embroiled in controversy yesterday, as three MPs aligned to the ruling Liberal-National coalition faced police investi-gations and charges over alleged misuse of their parliamentary

John Howard, the prime minister who came to power last year promising new standards of probity in public life, has been

"rorts" after an Australian colloquialism meaning rackets or deceptive practices. Mr Howard's shame has been compounded by the fact that he had spent weeks defending one of the MPs amid mounting public clamour for the politician's resignation.

That MP is Mal Colston, a member of the Senate, the up-per house of federal partiament, who was forced to repay almost A\$7,000 (£3,300) last month after an inquiry revealed he had wrongly claimed al-lowances for trips. Mr Colston has been accused of flying 3,000 embarrassed by the sleaze, miles across Australia from known as the parliamentary Brisbane to Perth, on parlia-

frequent fiver points, of claiming travel allowances on 43 days since 1993 when he did not travel, and of using a chauffeuralready had a self-drive car funded by taxpayers.

The defence of Mr Colston by Mr Howard and some senior. ministers was based on sheer political opportunism. Mr Colston once belonged to the

president of the Senate.

Mr Howard's conservative overnment needed Mr. Colston's vote in the Senate, where it does not have an absolute majority. It supported the newly independent Mr Colston for the job. In return, he has supported the government in getting some of its most con-

Labor Party, but he left it in a troversial legislation through a statement that her lawyers huff last year when it refused to the Senate, especially its bill to sent to the Senate, Miss Smith back him for the job of deputy privatise one-third of the stateowned telecom.

But Mr Howard's refusal to condemn Mr Colston's behaviour over his use of public money backfired spectacularly on Thesday night. It came when Christine Smith, a member of Mr Colston's staff who had earlier taken the blame for his false travel claims, recanted, In

said her earlier version - that she had kept erroneous records

sure from Mr Colston. "I now wish to advise that my statement was incorrect," she said, "I was not responsible for preparing the senator's travelling allowance claims

Miss Smith said she had initially agreed to help Mr Colston he told her that the errors were genuine, and that the row was part of a Labor Party campaign to discredit him. Since Miss Smith's revelation,

the prime minister has referred the Colston "rorts" to federal police, and has called on Mr Colston to resign as Senate deputy president. The loss of Mr Colston's support in the Senate the fall-out Photograph: Reuters

Colston, left, was forced to repay £3,000 worth of public money while, John Howard, above, the prime

minister, must deal with

consequences for Mr Howard's

legislative programme At the same time, federal police this week laid fraud charges against Michael Cobb, a backbench MP from the National Party, the junior partner in the government coalition, and Bob Woods, a former Liberal Party member of the Senate. Mr Woods resigned from parliament last month amid a row over the "rorting" claims and a separate sex scandal.

Both men have been charged under the Crimes Act with making false claims over their parliamentary travel allowances. They face prison sentences if convicted.

The affair of the "rorting" MPs has tarnished the Howard government's claims to lift

Palestinians facing 'quiet' deportation

Patrick Cockburn Jerusalem

In two months' time, in a move likely to have more effect on the fate of Jerusalem than the building of a Jewish settlement dren, said: "I was born and raised in Jerusalem as was my husband. Four months ago they at Har Homa, Israel will start a meticulous examination of the right of every Palestinian resident to remain in the city.
Those who are not issued with the coveted Jerusalem identity card will have 15 days in which

In what a report by B'Iselem, the Israeli human-rights group, calls "a policy of quiet depor-tation of East Jerusalem's Palestinian residents", hundreds and perhaps thousands of people have already been forced to leave. Western consular officials in Jerusalem fear that as many as 120,000 out of 170,000, two thirds of the Palestinian population, could lose their right to live in the city.

So far the regulations have been mainly enforced when a Palestinian needs to renew an identity card, but the Israeli Interior Ministry says that be-tween June and August all identity cards must be renewed. As a result of the policy, which started early last year but

which has been more harshly enforced since Benjamin Netanyahu became Prime Minister,

Rupert Cornwell
Washington

of his second term.

A quarter of a century after its

exposure, the US government will finally apologise for the in-famous 40-year-long Tuskegee

syphilis experiment on poor

and unsuspecting black Amer-

icans. The gesture comes amid a gathering campaign by President Bill Clinton to make racial reconciliation a defining theme

Under plans being finalised at the White House, Mr Clin-

ton will convene a ceremony -probably in the small eastern Al-

ahama town of Tuskegee, where

the study began in 1932 - in which he will formally ac-

knowledge official wrongdoing in an affair which fuelled black

distrust of white government.

recruited for the experiment,

mostly impoverished rural

More than 600 people were

a kind Joth April

MIN 200M EN

many Palestinians born in Jer- diabetes and have kidney probusalem have stopped registering their children. Su'ad Ninn, 32, who is the mother of three chiltook away our identity cards. Now my husband cannot leave the house. We live in fear that he

lawyer, said: "It is a true crisis in human rights: Israel is forcibly getting rid of Palestinians not by pulling them out by their hair, but by quiet, slow, sophisticated deportation." The essence of the new policy is to force allus to give documentary proof - often twelve different documents - showing that they have always lived in the city.

Olga Matri Hana Yoaqim, 63, who has seven children, was born in Bethlehem but has lived in the city with her hasband since 1952. "In September 1995 I went to replace my identity card at the Interior Ministry office in East Jerusalem," she said. The clerk cut up her old card and told her to come back in two weeks. When Mrs Yoaqim returned "the clerks told me: "You don't have an identity card. Go to the

West Bank". Her husband went back to the ministry 20 times but was refused. Mrs Yoaqim said: "I suffer from

Clinton to apologise for

syphilis tests on blacks

lems. When I go to a clinic or hospital, they want to see my identity card. Because I have none, I can't receive treatment."

The Interior Ministry denies that it has a new policy, but says it is merely enforcing old regulations. Responding to the allegation that it has embarked on a policy of deportation, Tova person, said: "When permanent residents sever their connection with Israel - maintain their centre of life in another location ... - their free choice causes the expiration of their permanent residency."

In fact, it is only recently that Palestinians who live in a Jerusalem suburb such as Ram or Abu Dhis have found that their "centre of life" has moved from the city as much as if they had moved to Dundee. B'Tselem. in its report, The Quiet Deportation: Revocation of Residency of East Jerusalem Palestinians, says: "Some 18 months ago, the Interior Ministry began to revoke the residency status of persons who moved outside the municipal borders of Jerusalem."

The change was retroactive and introduced without notice so it is only now that Palestinians are discovering if they have the right to live in the city where they were born.

an effective cure for syphilis. To-

day, the survivors number just

eight, aged between 87 and 106. Six of them had syphilis, while

two were members of a control group who were not infected.

came to light, the federal gov-

ernment has paid \$10m (£6.2m)

in compensation to victims and their heirs. But no apology has been forthcoming. The Presi-dent feels we have a moral

obligation," a White House

Attention to Thakegee has grown since 1995 when Mr

Clinton issued a formal apology

for the equally unwitting guinea pigs of government radiation ex-

periments during the Cold War.

in ceremonies at a New York

stadium honouring Jackie

Robinson, who broke baseball's

colour barrier 50 years ago. Mr

Clinton is also considering other

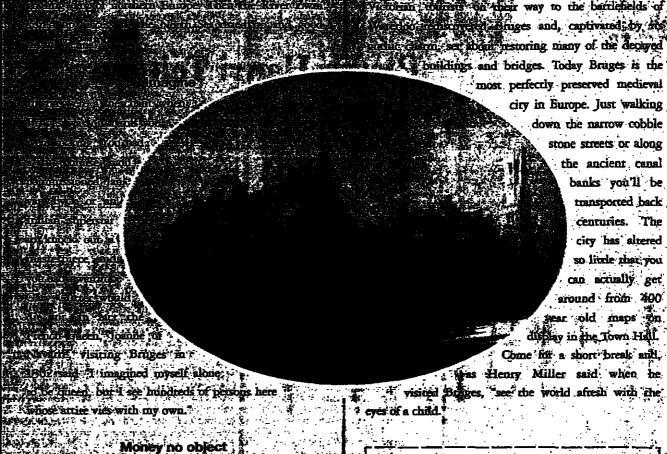
initiatives, including a White

Next week he will take part

spokesman said.

Since 1972, when the project

Why visit Bruces? Nothing has mappened there for centuries.



The metchant Jan van Moeskroen picked up a great and Child and General it in the ichiol One Lady. Others, consily wealthy, pumped oney more civilizations like the Stadings which, with oney more civilizations like the Stadings which, with a stading of actives as the orders and more nown tall in anders. The ciry was so amazing that even in the Middle get 2 of the ciry was so amazing that even in the Middle get 2 of the ciry was so amazing that even in the Middle get 2 of the ciry was supported blackers into the Venice

Strapped for cash ao each flowing into the city the merchants shipped our Danges then did its Sleeping Beautypics. Even in the sedekers 1900 guide nothing is mentioned after the

Little actions, in fact its only high spot was when the 11 was explicit there in 1656 and formed the

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The Belgian Tourist Office, 29 Princes Street, London W1R 7RG

sion cra by promises of free food ter penicillin was proved to be House conference on race. Pentagon wizardry can't trace lost jet

and medicine. Of them, 399

were infected with syphilis, but

were not told they had the dis-

ease and were treated with

placebos. The aim was to dis-

cover how untreated syphilis developed and killed people.
To that end black victims, the

majority of whom died, were

turned into human laboratory

fodder. The experiment contin-

ued for a quarter of a century af-

Washington - For all the reconnaissance wizardry at its disposal, the Pentagon as of mid-day yesterday had still failed to resolve the week-old mystery of what precisely happened to a vanished US Air Force jet, last seen on 2 April heading towards the central Colorado Rockies west of Denver, writes Ruper Cornwell.

est of Denver, writes and U-2 spy planes, not Despite using satellites and U-2 spy planes, not to mention more conventional search me er to the surface, no trace has been found of the

A-10 "Warthog" ground support aircraft which was taking part in training enercises in Arizona.

The jet, piloted by Capt Craig Button, 33, disappeared from a three-plane formation about noon last Wednesday. Its radio signal had been turned off to prevent radar interference among close flying aircraft, while the automatic signal that would have been activated had the pilot ejected had not been picked up - suggesting the A-10 either

Flanders

For details of Bruges Breaks phone 07000

Laxmishanker Pathak

A specialist food shop in Florida is advertising on the internet its range of British epicurean delights: Crosse and Blackwell's Branston pickle, Peek Frean's rich tea biscuits, Bird's custard powder, and Patak's curry sauces and chumeys. That sort of recognition - the admission of Patak's to the British food establishment - would have given particular pleasure to the founder of the company, Laxmishanker Pathak.

L.G. Pathak, as he was invariably known, was fiercely proud of the role he and his family played in hauling Indian food out of the flock wallpaper era into today's highly competitive international food market, in which Asian cuisine has come to mean something more than chicken hiryani and a pint of lager.



Some measure of Patak's success is the fact they could af-ford to hire Roland Joffe, who

shot in a village near Jaipur. To food industry was a deeply those who remember when Indian food commercials consisted of distorted sitars and scratchy stills and invariably ended with the words "just round the corner from this cinema", Joffe's commercial was a powerful symbol of the new status of Indian food.

For Pathak the symbolism went rather deeper. Sixty years ago his family had been driven ago ins faining had been diven by grinding poverty from a sim-ilar village in India and, en-couraged by the colonial authorities, had set up home in Kenya. To return to his homeland in triumph as the founder and visionary behind a company that has grown from a kitchen table operation to control more than a quarter of Britain's billion-pound Indian

convent near Dublin but the boys were brought home when the de-vout Hindu couple found their moving experience for him. Pathak (he dropped the "h" from the company name to avoid confusing the Brits) founded the business in 1956 elder son Kirit had taken to Catholicism and was harbouring ambitions to be Pope. Once home, the young boys worked long hours after school in the when, after the departure of the

British, the Mau Mau forced him and his young family out of North London basement, rolling pendas, a kind of Indian fudge. Within five years, the family had raised enough to open a Kenya. Arriving in London with just £5 in his pocket, he and his wife Shanta rented a basement shop in Euston, supplying sweets, snacks, and Indian food in Kentish Town, from where they produced Indian sweets and samosas which they bawked ingredients, not only to Lonround the newly arrived Indian diplomats and officials in London's Indian community but also to the growing number of Asian restaurants opening in don. So driven were the Pathaks that they borrowed money to send their two sons to boarding Britain, at first in the immediate area, and later nationwide. school, to free the couple to Pathak's master-stroke was to work 18 hours a day.
The only school the Pathaks

could afford was a Dominican

realise that the restaurant business in those early days was largely staffed by recent immi-

grants often with rudimentary cooking skills, and then proba-bly limited to the dishes of their own particular regional area. He made it easy for them by producing ready-made sauces and chameys. These days 90 per cent of Britain's 10,500 restaurants use Patak's pastes, sold in two-kilo drums. It is not too much of an exaggeration to say Patak's is responsible for the taste of Saturday-night Britain.

Pathak's second inspiration came in 1972, when the British set up refugee camps for Ugan-dan Asians expelled by Idi Amin. Pathak knew the frightened thousands arriving in Britain would feel exactly as he had 16 years earlier. They would be hungry for information about the customs of their new home and also for the

food they were used to earing at home. He persuaded the army authorities not to give the Asians bangers and mash but let Patak's feed them instead, in return for which he would print and distribute information in their own language about how to fit into British society. So while Pathak was in the camps performing his social function on behalf of the British, his son Kirit was in the kitchens un-

loading boxes of samosas. In 1976, he handed over control of the business to Kirit, who has overseen phenomenal growth worldwide, but he has always acknowleged the debt he owes to his father, who was a hard taskmaster but who passed to his son a unique knowledge of vegetables and spices. The sniffing and feeling of mangoes

and peppers Kirit learnt in the North London basement have been instrumental in helping Patak's challenge the big food combines in the sauce and pickle market.

Even after he retired, Pathak kept a close eye on the business. Kirit told me that his son, who is doing business studies, recently showed his grandfather a text book quoting Patak's as a company model. When Pathak saw the name of the company he founded shown alongside Coca Cola and the Body Shop, tears welled in his eyes.

Martin Keiner Laxmishanker Gopalji Pathak, businessman: born 5 March 1925: married 1945 Shanta Gaury Pandit (four sons, two daughters); died Bolton 31 March 1997.

Ella Maillart

"To dawdle is my usual fashion. as if I had the whole of eternity before me." This sums up Ella Maillan's approach to travel; she liked travelling slowly, absorbing the culture, and she understood the importance of finding the similarities rather than the differences between people. It was this inquisitiveness which makes her part of the tradition of great women travellers; she had an interest in understanding the how and why of other people's lives, rather more than in straight exploration.

Ella Maillart, known as Kini, was born in Geneva in 1903; she was a sickly child until, aged ten, she and her family started to spend the summer months on Lake Geneva. She was entranced by the lake, where she learned to sail, and in 1924 she represented Switzerland as the only woman in single-handed yachting at the Paris Olympics. She was a natural athlete and wrote that "with sailing, hockey, and skiing as main amuse-ments I could bear the boredom of school." Her skiing became so accomplished that between 1931-34 she was a member of the Swiss National Ski Team. A photograph in her autobiography Cruises and Caravans (1942) shows her as the only woman in the Swiss ladies' ski

team wearing a skirt. At 17 she gave up school to study privately, to try to discover what career was calling her. She (whom she had previously interviewed in London), who was realised that earning her own in China for the Times, and she living was her only route to independence but envied those gether on a 3,500-mile trip west a search rather than an escape, to point my skis down every pos-who knew what they wanted to from Peking through the Tak- but after her time in India she sible gully of the mountain." do, not having any idea herself. lamakan desert and Sin-kiang achieved a greater serenity. I re-

six-month voyage with another woman along the south coast of France. On her return, her father, a furrier, told her that, as business was bad, she must think further about a career. She decided that the answer to her future lay in turning her life into

a continual holiday. She did various jobs in England and Berlin, where she lived mostly on porridge, and fi-nally got a visa to Russia in 1930, where she studied film in Moscow and learnt to speak fluent Russian. She soon tired of the sedentary life and set off for the Caucasus. An article she wrote on her Caucasus trip was rejected; this did not surprise her as she said "I never nursed the illusion that I could write." She later saw writing as a tool which enabled her to travel, insisting that "I write with my foot.

She was later persuaded to expand her rejected article, which was published as Parmi La Jeunesse Russe (1932). Tiakestan Solo (1934) was the account of an expedition from the Tien Shan to the Kizil Kum where she spent time with the Kirghiz and Kazakh tribesmen. In 1935 she was sent as a special correspondent by the French newspaper Petit Parisien to Manchuria. It was there that she re-encountered Peter Fleming

suggested that they embark to-

undaunted she embarked on a ers) to Kashmir: a journey which took seven months. In the foreword to his book of the journey News From Tanary (1936) Fleming wrote "I can hardly doubt that you will find her, as I did, a gallant traveller and a good companion." This belies the in-evitable difficulties that two strong-minded people had with their very different approaches to travel. Fleming was impatient to get back to England while Ella Maillart, whose book about the trip, Forbidden Journey, was published in 1937, wanted to linger. She was a traveller rather than an explorer, not interested in map-making, but rather in understanding the people among whom she found herself. "I wanted to forget that we had inevitably to return home. I even lost the desire to return, and would have liked the jour-

ney to last for the rest of my life."

The Cruel Way (1947) recounts a journey from Geneva to India via Persia and Afghanistan made in 1939 with a friend who was recovering from drug addiction. She spent much of the war in India visiting ashrams and gurus, way ahead of her time. and staved for some time with Ramana Maharshi in southern India. He cured her of some of her restlessness and she came to the realisation that "the world with its countless aspects cannot give us the fundamental answer: only God can. And God can be met nowhere but in

ourselves... Her travels had always been



Travel Bookshop in London as an old lady, sitting peacefully on the sofa but still exuding an air of curiosity. It was that, combined with a prodigious energy that made her into such a good traveller and an inspiration to women travellers of today. Her aim was "to push the nose of my sailing boat into every creek and

In 1949 Maillart became one places well into her eighties. In February 1903; died Chandolin, Her private studies failed, but (at that time closed to foreign- member her coming into the of the first travellers to the new- her old age she managed to Switzerland 27 March 1997.

was taking him to a concentra-

mation. It was then that he

ly opened Nepal and wrote about the people, who remind-ed her of her native Swiss, in achieve one of her ambitions by going to the South Pacific and aged 83, she went to Tibet on her last major expedition. Three Land of the Sherpas (1955). That was her last travel book but she continued to write occasionally and to lecture and accompany tours abroad.

She retired to a chalet in Chandolin, one of the highest villages in the Swiss Alps, but went on taking tours to far-off

years ago she went to Goa and spent her remaining years reading about India and Indian

born Geneva, Switzerland 20

Pierre-Henri Teitgen

Many elderly politicians must ené appeared. In his lectures Teitecho the sad words of Cleopatra, "And I am all forgotten", and most would protest about this injustice. None could do so more than Pierre-Henri Teitgen. same time, mainly through per-

the only new political party to a force of some 9,000 adherents, emerge from the war and the Resistance in France. This was the Mouvement Républicain to commit acts of sabotage. The Populaire, the Social Catholic party that was always known by its initials, the MRP, and which, having been the second party in the elections of October 1945, became the country's leading party in the elections of June 1946. It gained 28 per cent of the national vote.

of this party came from his activities in the Resistance. By profession an academic lawyer. after demobilisation he chose to go to the occupied area and was appointed to the University of Montpellier. In September 1940, an adventurer who had strayed in co-operation with François de Menthon, he decided that opposition to the Vichy government should be organised, and on 25 November the first number of and who then betrayed many of his associates. But Teitgen re-mained loyal to de Gaulle and the clandestine newspaper Lib- to Jean Moulin (whom he sub-

gen chose to describe the police state of Napoleon III, and their anti-Vichy, anti-German relevance became well known. At the He was one of the creators of sonal contacts, Teitgen built up together with two small units of volunteers, who were prepared group Liberté merged with the larger resistance movement Combat and he was one of the editors of the newspaper of the same name which was the most famous publication of the time.

He knew all the vicissitudes of the Resistance. His position was clear: he opposed Vichy and Teitgen's role in the creation the Germans, he supported this party came from his ac-France in London. However some of those in Combat were anti-German but pro-Petain. There was constant insecurity, into the ranks of Liberté was arrested for black market activities



sequently defended against charges of being a Soviet agent). Paris in 1943, where he wanted the National Council of the Resistance to proclaim de Gaulle as the national leader. This did not prevent him from having meetings, early in 1944, with a representative of Marshal Petain, who was discussing the reconciliation of all French people. Four days before the Allied landings in Normandy, Teitgen was arrested by the Gestapo, but

he escaped from the train that

65; Mr Thomas Spencer, MEP 49; Mr

made his first impact on the organisation of post-war France. He gave permission for the Figaro to continue to appear and he helped to found two newspapers, Le Monde and, in Rennes, Ouest-France. He was well able to assist in the appointments of editorial staff, his father, Henri Teitgen, having worked for Ouest-Eclair before the war. Le Monde became possibly the most important French newspaper and Teitgen overruled de Gauile, ensuring that it would be independent and not semi-official. Ouest-France is the paper with the largest circulation in France.

In May 1945 he became Min-ister for Justice and it fell to him to see to many of the cases which had emerged from the conflicts which had taken place within France. Naturally, the sympathisers of Vichy thought him too harsh and the leaders of the Resistance thought him too lenient. But he kept his rep-

utation as being fair-minded and tion camp. He returned to Paris just. He continued in this post and in September de Gaulle after de Gaulle's resignation in made him Minister for Infor- January 1946 but tried to maintain relations with the General. However he did not agree that the new President had to be given extensive powers be-cause of the imminence of war with the Soviet Union. When the General formed his new party in April 1947 Teitgen turned away from him.

The MRP had been founded

in November 1944 as a non-confessional party which nevertheless saw itself as the heir to the Christian-inspired democratic parties that had existed pre-war. It was therefore a party of social reform and of liberty. Teitgen was criticised for supporting the French war in Indo-China, and he served as minister and Vice-Prime Minister in several governments which prosecuted that war. The reason was that he saw the Viet-Minh as communists. It was different in Algeria, where he thought that the excesses of torture should be avoided and where major economic and social reforms carried

out. He wanted a new Algeria.

ter extinguishing a fire on ad-

joining wasteland. The West Yorkshire case concerned a fire

at a chapel which could not be

contained because of the ab-

sence of a proper water supply.

In those two cases the fire

brigade was held not to be liable.

James Munby QC and Edward Faulks QC (Council Solicitor) for Hampshire;

Ronald Walker QC and Toby Hoop-

er (Hestell Erskine & Co) for John

Munroe; Anthony Boswood QC and

Bruce Speller (Devonshires) for the

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day

Saints; Jonathan Sumption QC and

Nigel Tozzi (Barlow Lyde & Gilbert)

for Digital; John Slater QC, Simon Brown QC and Alexander Anteime

(Cameron Markby Hewitt) for Cap-

ital; Michael De Navarro QC and Gra-

but he told the 1956 MRP Congress that anyone who handed over Algeria should be impeached. As Minister for Colonies he accomplished much of the work for the Deferre law of 1957 which established assemblies in the Africa colonies.

In 1958 he opposed the re-turn of de Gaulle. He lost his seat in the Assembly where he had represented his home department of Ille-et-Vilaine since 1946. Typically he returned to his academic career, as Professor of Law at the University of Rennes, and later Paris.

He remained an influential figure in the MRP, denouncing the dictatorial government, as he put it, of the Fifth Republic and its nuclear policy. A supporter of European federation he was appointed to the European Court for the Rights of Man in 1976. This was his final post, an appropriate recognition of his principles and career.

Douglas Johnson

Pierre-Henri Teitgen, lawyer and politician: born Rennes 29 May 1908; married; died Paris 6 April

Vladimir Soloukhin

For quarter of a century Vladimir Soloukhin, a major contemporary Soviet writer from the 1960s to the 1990s, led a campaign to stop the destruction of an important part of the Russian national heritage Russian Orthodox churches. His "Letters from a Russian Museum" (1966), and "Black Pan-els" (1968) were spectacular protests in literary form and in their time created a sensation. making their author a national celebrity. But it had taken 20 years for his feelings about the subject to come to maturity.

Vladimir Alexeevich Soloukhin was born in Alepino, a village in Vladimir Oblast, in 1924, a few months after the death of Lenin. His father, Alexei Soloukhin, was a socalled Stolypin peasant and was one of millions of victims of Stalin's bloody collectivisation campaign responsible for the destruction of rural Russia in the 1930s - 20 million died through artificial starvation.

Vladimir was a student at an engineering school in the town of Vladimir, near Moscow, from 1938 to 1942. When the Germans invaded the Soviet Union in June 1941 he was incorporated as a soldier into an elite squad of guards responsible for the security of the Kremlin. His ambitions, however, lay in literature. By mid-1945 his peasant background and war into print - poems and short stories of no literary value.

In 1946 he was accepted as a student at the elite Gorky Literary Institute in Moscow. From 1951 on he contributed regularly to the weekly magazine Ogonek, again mainly poems and short stories. Rozhdenie Zemograda ("Birth of Zernograd", 1955) was a contribution to Khrushchev's propaganda campaign targeted at young people to go and work in the so-called tselinnye zemli - new, previously untouched lands in far away areas such as Kazakhstan, where subhuman conditions prevailed.

In 1957 Soloukhin received official recognition for his Vadimirskie poselki ("Vladimir Villages"), in which he de-scribed his visits to villages in his native territory - poor, delapi-dated, and abandoned - in the beautiful literary style for which he became known. In his devotion to the government, the following year he took part in a vicious official campaign of ha-rassment against Boris Pasternak; as he later wrote, he was to regret this action all his life. Nonetheless, this public loyalty secured his acceptance as a member of the Presidium of the Union of Writers of the Russ-

ian Federation. In 1964 he published an autobiographical novel, Mat' Machekha ("Step-Mother"). During the Brezhnev years he June travelled extensively around 1997.

the country searching for and studying icons and churches, It was at this time that he returned to his peasant roots, and his researches into Christianity, collectivisation and icons changed his heart and turned him against the politics of the Soviei Government.

It was about these subjects that he wrote his two most important books, Pisma iz russkogo muzeya ("Letters from Russian Museum") and Chernye doski ("Black Panels"), about the systematic destruction by the Soviet Government of Russian icons and Russian Orthodox churches. They made him a national celebrity. But the price was that he was attacked by the Soviet literary establishment. From this time he was completely unpublishable in Russia, but his London publisher, Vladimir Chuguev of Iskander Ltd (Iskander was the 19th-century writer Alexander Herzen's pseudonym during his London exile) published Rod-naya Krasoca ("Native Beauty".

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ah's Arh

1968) and later other books. Meanwhile in Russia his popularity grew. From the Seventies onwards he wrote for the important Novy Mir magazine and others and made public appearances in response to invitations from all over the country. speaking out on what was happening to Russian churches. The authorities realised it was had to tolerate him, and in 1979 he was awarded the State Prize of the Russian Federation. In 1980 he wrote Viennya sohirat kamni ("It's Time to Collect ... Stones") about the destruction by the Soviet Government of the important Russian monastery at Optina Pustyn, once a place of

Christian pilgrimage. He was delighted by Gorbachev's perestroika. In 1988 his very important book, Smekh za levym plechom ("Laughter Over the Left Shoulder"), which was anti-Communist, was published in Frankfurt. The following year in the Moscow magazine Rodina (number 10, 1989), for the first time, he gave a critical analysis of Lenin's heritage. In 1990 Communists viciously attacked his last book, Kameshki Na Ladoni ("Small Stones on a Palm") about the fate after the Second World War of Russian prisoners of war and refugees who fled collectivisation and the Gulag and were handed over by the Allies to Stalin, many to their death. At his Moscow apartment Soloukhin amassed the biggest collection of valuable Russian icons in private hands, worth according to rumour some \$2m US dollars.

Jeanne Vronskaya Vladimir Alexeevich Soloukhin, writer and campaigner born Alepino, Vladimir Oblast 14

June 1924; died Moscow 4 April

Births, Marriages & Deaths

RAMPTON: On 19 March, to Mary (nee Jones) and James a daughter, Emma Sarah, a sister to Helen.

DEATHS

JOACHINE Suddenly and peacefully in the Independent Hospital, Turbridge Wells, on 7 April, Nuna Mary Elisa-both, aged \$2, formerly Principal of beth, aged S., formerly remember as St Hild's College, Durham, much loved ann, great-aunt and grand-daughter of lamous violinist Joseph Joachim, Private cremation for fam-ity and friends on Thursday 17 April at 2.30pm at Tunbridge Wells Cre-matorium. Memorial and Thanks-giving Service at St Paul's Church, Rusthall, to be arranged at a later

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, in Memoriam) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary What, London E14 5DL, telephoned to 0171-293, 2010, and are the control of the Canary What, Tombour E14 5DL, telephoned to 0171-293, 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

Birthdays Mr Lyndon Brook, actor, 71; Lord

Mr Lyndon Brook, actor, 71; Lord Brookes, former company chairman, 88; Professor J. Desmond Clark, anthropologist and archaeologist, 81; Sir Anthony Cleaver, chairman, AEA Technology, 59; Sir Edward Evans-Lombe, High Count judge, 60; Vice-Admiral Sir Alastair Ewing, 88; Mr George Fyfe, chairman, Co-operative Wholesale Society, 56; Mr Patrick Garfand, theatre and film director, 62; Mr Adrian Henri, former president, Mr Adrian Henri, former president, Liverpool Academy of Arts, 65: Mr Liverpool Academy of Arts, 65: Mr John Holroyd, Secretary for Ap-pointments to the Prime Minister, 62; Miss Gloria Hunniford, radlo pre-senter, 57; Mr Owen Kelly, former Commissioner of Police for the City of London, 64: Perfessors Resplan of London, 65; Professor Kathleen Major, former Principal, St Hilda's College, Oxford, 91; Mr Stan Mellor, racehorse trainer and former jockey. 60; Mr David Moorcroft, athlete, 44 Sir Robert Rhodes James, historian and former MP, 64; M Maurice Schu-

mann, anthor and former government minister, 86; Mr Omar Sharif, actor,

Christopher Stoddart, managing di-rector, GMTV, 47; Mr Paul Theroux, author, 56; Mr Max von Sydow, ac-tor, 68; Sir Rodney Walker, former chairman, Sports Council, 54.

Anniversaries

Births: William Hazlitt, essayist and critic, 1778; William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army, 1829. Deaths: Evelyn Arthur St John Waugh, novelist, 1966. On this day: bananas were displayed in a London shop window 1633; Vimy Ridge was finally taken by the Canadian troops, 1917. Today is the Feast Day of St Bademus, S Fulbert of Chartres, St Macarius or Macaire of Ghent, St Michael de Sanctis, St Paternus of Abdinghof and The Martyrs under the Danes.

Lectures Victoria and Albert Museum: Terry Bioxham, "The Various Use of Relies in the Middle Ages", 2.30pm.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS The Queen tales Level High Adment's Dressons at Britania Ruyah News College, Dartmouth, Devon, The Dake of Edinburgh stells the Royal Star and Garter Home for Doublet's Shorts, Reldings and Adment, Rich stells, Startey, as Proticing, channa meeting of the Royal Nati Addisory Committee as Parkingham Palace, and as Parkin, attended the institution of Chemical Engagers' Author Homes Landon Changing of the Guard

No duty owed to owner by attending and fighting fire LAW REPORT

Digital Equipment and others v Hampshire County Council and others: Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Stuart-Smith, Lord Justice Potter, Lord Justice Judge) 14 March 1997

A fire brigade was not, by merely attending at and fighting a fire, under a duty of care to the owners of premises damaged or destroyed by the fire, although it would be liable where a danger created by its negligence caused extra damage, unless it could show that the extra damage would have occurred in any event.

The Court of Appeal disnissed the appeals, which had been consolidated because they raised similar points of law. In the Hampshire case, the fire brigade had turned off the sprinkler system at premises which were on fire, as a result of which the fire had spread causing the total loss of the building. The fire brigade was found liable for the extra dam-

10 April 1997 for London Fire and Civil Defence; Colin MacKay QC and Jonathan age so caused. In the London case, damage had been caused to premises which the fire brigade had failed to inspect af-Bellamy (Davies Arnold Cooper) for

> Lord Justice Stuart-Smith said that there was no reported case in this country on the question whether, once they had started to fight a fire, a fire brigade owed a duty of care to the owner of the property on fire, or to anyone else to whose

West Yorkshire Fire and Civil Defence.

property the fire might spread. In the Hampshire case the judge had found for the property owners on the basis that a duty of care existed where there had been a direct infliction of foreseeable physical damage. There was no doubt that where a rescue service, by its negligence, created the danger which caused a plaintiff's injury, the plaintiff could recover unless the ham Ekhand (Legal Branch, LFCD) rescue service could show that

the extra damage would have occurred in any event.

It had been submitted for all the owners that there was sufficient proximity between the parties to establish a duty of have been just, fair and reacare, on the basis of assumption of responsibility by the fire brigade and particular reliance by the owner. A fire brigade did not, however, enter into a relationship of sufficient proximity with the owner or occupier of premises to create a duty of care merely by at-

tending at and fighting a fire. It was perhaps unnecessary, therefore, in the London and West Yorkshire cases, to consider whether as a matter of policy it was just, fair and reasonable that a duty of care should exist. The question was, however, closely related to that of proximity. of proximity.

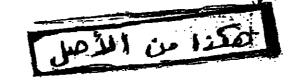
There was no ground in a case

such as the Hampshire case, where the fire brigade had created or increased the danger by turning off the sprinklers, for giv-

ing immunity.

Had a sufficient relationship of proximity existed in the London and West Yorkshire cases, sonable to impose a duty of care would not have been convincing. The principles underlying the cases where immunity had been granted could not be sufficiently identified in the case of fire brigades.

It was not possible either to argue for the existence of statutory immunity: section 30 of the Fire Services Act 1947 was not apt to establish an implied immunity from proceedings in negligence, whether brought by



Daddy, we're all right but we're missing you

arents have always been anxious about their offspring. From Augustus and Livia in their decline in behavioural standards a stock item in their rhetoric. Roman palace to M and Mme Montaigne on their Gascon estate to poor parents in the contemporary inner city, their concerns are the same: for their children to be healthy and happy, to grow to prosper, and to exhibit just a little wisdom.

It doesn't take much to summon up parental guilt. Incomplete research, tendentiously reported, can send mothers and fathers into paroxysms of introspection. Lately, a claque of social pessimists has made a fat living from har-anguing working parents, their assertions usually based on slight data and historical myopia. If you want to see bad and cruel parents, Victorian fiction is littered with better examples. Anyone tempted by a bout of latter-day panic about the parenting skills of today's commuters should read Dickens (Dombey and Son), Samuel Butler (The Way of All Flesh) or Edmund Gosse (Father and Son).

In such a climate, it is refreshing to turn to an empirical study that is both informative and calm. The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children has not always in the past avoided exaggeration; charities get income by alarming the public. But its report, based on a sample survey of children aged 8 to 15, is measured. It gives no comfort to the panickers, or those politicians (Labour as well as

If real children have worries, they are often about doing well at school. Today's children, including teenagers, accept the legitimacy of their parents' judgements about what they should and should not do - within reason. That most children think it is up to them how they do their hair but up to their parents whether they should be allowed out of the house seems a deeply rea-

sonable position.

If the NSPCC's sample is representative of youth in the late Nineties and so of the generation that will move into adulthood in the first decade of the next century, then Britain's social prospects look benign. Family life, which includes contact between children and their grandparents, is in fine fettle and looks set to remain that way.

The fact is, we don't know how things used to be. We rely on anecdote and adults' selective memory of their own childhood years. With caution, however, it is hard not to register the survey's findings about the extent of touching, kissing and cuddling by par-ents of their children as a real change. Whether we attribute it to Dr Spock or Penelope Leach or to wider shifts in sensibility, family life is more loving and physically warmer - and that must be

Two social facts stick out of this gen-



ONE CANADA SOUARE CANARY WHARF LONDON E14 5DL TELEPHONE 0171-293 2000 / 0171-345 2000 FAX 0171-293 2485 / 0171-345 2435

erally happy picture of parents and their children in modern England and Wales. If we say the first is obvious, that does not mean it is recognised in public policy or election manifestos. It is the existence of a problem group -"class" is too loaded a term - where their children, where they shout more, where material want pinches, where fathers are absent, where children are slapped rather than given explanations. This group is not the same as the statisticians' income classes D and E; all of its members do not live on council estates. But it has a real social pres-

ence, and on the evidence of this report the experience of its children is consistently different - and worse than that of the majority.

There are lessons here for public policy. They are not simple and they do not all involve extra spending. But they parents do not do homework with do involve tilting money for schooling, community supports, housing, jobs and so on in particular directions - in other words, redistribution. And that is, we note in passing, a word not much to heard on the hustings.

A second note struck in this report concerns fathers. Through the figures can be heard the voices of children, rich

and poor, teenage and younger, and they say something compellingly sim-ple: we love our fathers and would like to spend more time with them.

Here is a loud and urgent message. It mocks those men and women who, self-servingly or for reasons of principle, assert that it doesn't matter whether children are brought up with their fathers - and that has implications for the questions of divorce, access and child support. Some 31 per cent of children with a parent who does not live at home - usually the father - never see that parent. What a mound of sub-happiness and lost opportunity for fun, love and instruction lie behind that figure.

Many children whose fathers do live with their mothers would evidently love to spend more time with dad. It is probably fair to say, though the evidence comes mostly from journalism and anecdote, that the reverse holds true, too. There is thus an imbalance in many families' lives, and one of which men - increasingly emotionally literate - are aware. But not, it seems, aware enough to seek to change their conditions of employment, or renegotiate domestic terms of trade. Yet more reason - women will say - for scepticism about "new men", or at least about the existence of men willing to do more than talk about their novelty.

This report is published at a good toral battle rages. Meanwhile, in the pri- crew of the Starship Enterprise.

vate spaces of families and employing organisations, men and women struggle to make a satisfying balance of work, material aspirations, domestic chores and the needs of their children.

Working women have long had to align the various and sometimes conflicting roles. Now the heat is on working men to effect a healthier relationship between children and life outside the home. They don't need to read the report. But they do need to hear those childish voices.

Captain Kirk in a floppy hat?

Tothing dates as fast as futurology, and one of life's minor pleasures has been enjoying mistakes by science-fiction about the near-future. Cities being crisscrossed by private helicopters? They forgot about noise pollution and safety. A world of industrial worker-bees? But then came the microchip ... Almost every futurologist has suggested that people will dress in simple tunics, short skirts, or unisex romper-suits. With the threat of skin cancer growing, earthlings of the 2050s will probably wear huge hats, floppy clothes and long-sleeved dresses. saunter around with parasols, and look moment. In the "public space", the elec-more like effete Edwardians than the

• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

Fundamental belief in Noah's Ark

Sir: "Just because a lot of people believe in something doesn't make it intellectually serious," writes Paul Vallely in his article on the Evolution versus Creationist battle (Tabloid, 8 April). He takes it as read that evolution won the battle decades ago. Fortunately for science it did not win the war. Decades ago, Creationists were unable to back up their theory. This has now changed According to Mr Vallely, I am a

fundamentalist and also superstitious with arcane notions. Yet nowhere in Mr Vallely's article did I see a sign that he had examined Creationist claims. As I understand it, science is supposed to look at all possibilities before accepting one as fact. If this was carried out neither creation nor evolution theory would yet be scientifically acceptable.

Mr Vallely obviously believes in evolution, so what is his definition of fundamentalism? If it is simply belief in creation then how would he describe his belief? If his definition is refusal to look at rational and logical arguments. while sticking to a belief, then he has shown himself to be a fundamentalist.

I believe in creation because the facts support it. He mentions the debate about whether cell life proves or disproves evolution. In this the evolutionists are at a disadvantage. They point to so called "simple cells" and say they are proof that we could have evolved. These cells are just as (complicated as any other found in our hodies, often more so, since they cannot depend on any other

cells for support.
All present life is highly complex and it is impossible to do other than speculate about the past. And yet Mr Vallely accuses me of being a fundamentalist when I cannot accept something which cannot be

The mability of scientists to agree on proof, inconsistencies in the fossil record and dating techniques could all be discussed. Is it really so hard to believe that a God who managed to create our incredibly complex world could manage to keep animals alive on an ark?

That is not fundamentalism, it's common sense. MARK SMITH

Sir. Noah's Ark need not have contained every variety and subvariety of today's species ("Creative Tension", 8 April). Both plants and animals can diversify within a short space of time. The 500 varieties of sweet pea have developed from a single type since 1700. The staggering variety of domestic pigeon comes from a common stock, the wild rock pigeon. Columbia linia, of

European coastlines. On this basis it was necessary for perhaps 35,000 individual vertebrate animals to be carried on board the ark (estimate given by John Whitcomb and Henry Morris in The Genesis Flood, Baker Book

A gigantic barge of volume 43,470 cubic metres (Hebrew 300 x \$60 x 30 cubits), the Ark had the capacity of 522 American two-deck railroad cars. Each car can carry 240 sheep, so two trains of 73 cars each - less than one-third of the Ark's capacity - could contain 35,000 sheep-sized animals.

every kind of bird, animal and creature that moves along the ground would come to the Ark. Living things employ two aweinspiring strategies to beat adverse weather conditions; migration and hibernation.

Perhaps the animals used both these methods to reach the Ark and survive the deluge. DEBORAH WOOLHOUSE

Sir: Islam, like Judaism and Christianity, believes strongly in the Creationist view, that our God, the only Creator of all, has created and founded the universe from nothing, in six days, and that man, animals and plants are created too with no evolution between animals and man.

We believe strongly that Darwin's Theory of Evolution is a theory and not based on scientific facts of evidence. Noah was one of the Prophets of God and Noah's Ark was a true historical fact. God in his mercy saved Noah and the animal kingdom when the flood occurred:

curred:
"We (once) sent Noah to his people and he tarried among them a thousand years less fifty; but the flood overwhelmed them while they (persisted) in sin. But we saved him and those who were in the ship (the animals) and we made the (ark) a sign for all the peoples." (Al Qur'an; chapter 29, verses 14-15)

We believe that the sign of the ark can be found and proved somewhere on our earth, it is possible that what has been discovered in Tirrkey are the remains of the Ark." DR A MAJID KATME Islamic Concern

Choices for electoral change

Sir: Russell Clarke's call (letter, 8 April) to Conservative voters to prevent change to the British constitution through returning another Tory administration is doubly misguided.

First, it makes the tacit assumption that change would not occur under a new Conservative government. This is not borne out by the evidence of the past 18 years which has the seen the emasculation of local government, the rise of quangocracy and a vast transfer of sovereignty from Westminster to the markets. Indeed, constitutional change is inherent in a system of government that is predicated on an unwritten

constitution.

Second, it makes the explicit. assumption that significant constitutional change is, a priori, a bad thing, yet it is clear that constitutional change has been used both poorly and well in the past. Extensions of the franchise are an example of the former, and the early prorogation of Parliament in this election may well be accounted an example of the latter. We voters do not have the luxury

in this election of choosing between change and no change, however much we may regret this. Our choice is, instead, between different types of change; we need to decide which is, on balance, for the better, and which for the worse. STEPHEN HILL London NW6

Sir: It is not surprising that the major political parties target their campaigns on the 70,000-odd undecided voters in the marginal constituencies, since under our grossly unfair electoral system these people will determine the outcome of the election.

The current government was elected on 42 per cent of the popular vote, but with a Parliamentary majority sufficient to delay a further election for the full five years. This is a recipe for mediocrity and sleaze. In my university 40 per cent is a "bare pass without honours" mark, and so Britain gets the governments its electoral system dictates, but that its electorate scarcely deserves.

If we reform the electoral systems that MPs are elected as at least the first or second choice of a proper majority of voters in any constituency we might have a etter chance of good governmen i am a long-time Labour supporter, twice I was a Labour parliamentary candidate, but in this constituency, Oxford West and Abingdon, I must vote tactically for the Lib Dem candidate to have any chance of defeating the Tories, under the current system. This is not an easy decision and invites criticism.

Our electoral system must be reformed by the incoming government, please, to make these Machiavellian machinations unnecessary next time. Maybe we do not need full PR, but we certainly do need a modicum of electoral reform. Professor GERALD ELLIOTT Oxford

e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be

edited for length and clarity. We regret we are unable to acknowledge unpublished letters.

Sir: It is hypocritical and insulting of the Labour Party to think of expelling members who intend to vote tactically. In our present voting system, tactical voting is a

Time's up for

Third World debt

Sir: Further to your report ("Why

Greenwich", 7 April), you may be

Nottingham Asian Christian Fellowship launched their Jubilee

2000 campaign outside St Peter's Church in Nottingham on Saturday

last with considerable interest from

They share the same objective as

the London Jubilee 2000 in that

Western governments, the World Bank and other commercial banks

to cancel the unrepayable debts of

the poorest countries as a one-off

these countries have repaid three

times the debts they owe in interest

Their campaign, with the support of the Bishop of Southwell, Rt Rev Patrick Harris, involves the

signing of a petition by all churches in the county and other interested

The principle of Jubilee in the book of Leviticus recognises that

accountable to one another. After

every 49 years, there would be a

total redistribution of wealth and

It was an opportunity to begin

anew and have freedom, land and

That time has now come. It is

the people of God were

possessions restored.

Nottingham Asian

West Bridgford,

Christian Fellowship

time for a year of Jubilee. SAMUEL MONDLE

gesture. In most cases, if not all,

they are also calling on the

2000 may come too soon for

interested to know that the

the local media in what is considered to be a unique

campaign by Asians.

payments.

citizens.

matter of common sense. If the Labour Party disapproves of tactical voting, it should support a system of proportional representation, in which every vote carries equal weight. LUCY POLLARD Buntingford, Hertfordshire

Tory destruction of woodlands

Sir: During the last general election John Major promised that there is no intention to privatise the Forestry Commission". But 892 of our public woodlands, comprising 109,837 acres, have been privatised in the past five years with massive loss of public access and total loss of freedom

to roam. Conservationists have opposed the sell-off. The World Wide Fund for Nature has said that our most valuable woodlands are not safe in private hands and that the Government has failed for years to close loopholes that allow woodland destruction to

continue. The only way to stop this most harmful sell-off is to get rid of the Tory government. PHILIP GREIG

Swindon, Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number. Fax: 0171-293 2056:

sick buildings

Alienated by

Sir: As a designer of air-conditioned buildings, I am fed up with friends asking me to work out why their particular office airconditioning system is not working

Jonathan Glancey's article ("Does your office make you sick?", 4 April) rightly points out that sick building syndrome is a phenomenon that managers and institutions have been slow to recognise. Many air-conditioned buildings designed in the Sixties and Seventies suffer from problems associated with centralised control which alienates the building occupant.

However, things are char There is a recognition in the HVAC (heating, ventilating and air conditioning) profession that the building occupant must be given both a greater variety of working spaces and much greater control over that environment. So it is that many well-designed modern buildings now feature large atrium spaces, light wells and winter

Technology is now being used to give back control to the occupant. Currently this means more room thermostats and systems in which the occupant can dim the lights. In the future, intelligent facades will be developed that will modify their performance to suit the prevailing weather conditions, possibly letting in more light in winter whilst redirecting the light in summer.

In Britain we do build most of our offices on a speculative basis. However, there is a growing move towards the pre-letting of developments whilst they are still MARTIN LONG Ove Arup and Partners London WI

All the world on the Isle of Wight

Sir: Can the world's population fit in an area the size of the Isle of Wight? Not according to your Technoquest expert (Tabloid; Science, 8 April) who says that only 1.6 billion people would fit in.

Your expert claims to have derived his figure from dividing the "approximately 400 square kilometres (380 to be more precise) by the average space occupied by one person – given as 625 square centimetres. But if you divide these two figures what you actually get is 6.4 billion, which suggests that the current world's population of around 5.6 billion would indeed fit. Your correspondent seems to have calculated the figure for 100 square

kilometres only.

However his figure of 625 square centimetres is a bit tight; this is 16

people per square metre.
If you allow a slightly more realistic 10 people per square metre then only four billion people would fit (or 3.8 billion if one uses the 380 square kilometre PDANT

Eastbourne. East Sussex

Too nice

Sir: Neil Hamilton has said it all ("Hamilton wins qualified support", 9 April): "He (Martin Bell) seems like a nice guy – totally unfitted for politics". IVOR SAMUELS West Bridgiora,

Boy T. Hollades Tolen 1 Methods 2: Walmeron the First Division: West Nam 1 Swindon 3.

Leading her husband by the nose

Christine Hamilton is not just another loyal Tory wife she has been the driving force behind the troubled MP's career. They rise and fall together, says **Paul Vallely**

s innocent' accept my husband is innocent?" the shrift voice demanded repeatedly as the hapless war reporter Martin Bell floundered to justify his presence as the anti-corrup-tion candidate in Tatton.

The voice was that of Christine Hamilton, wife of the former Tory minister Neil Hamilton whose once safe Conservative seat is now at the centre of the national storm over political sleaze. He may have admitted receiving lavish undeclared freebies, duping the Inland Revenue and lying to the Deputy Prime Minister. But he still maintains that he never received payment for asking parliamentary questions. She and her husband had hijacked Bell's debut press conference to push the political virgin into

It was Mrs Hamilton who made the running. Arriving arm-in-arm with her husband. with her apparently immovable smile fixed fiercely across her features, she announced to the waiting journalists: "We are perfectly entitled to be here. We are voters in the constituency, unlike Mr Bell who lives in Hampstead." It is always, we are coming to learn. the female half of the inseparable Hamilton double-act who leads. She not only acts as his Commons secretary - reading his letters, answering his phone,



organising his diary - she also tidies him up before interviews and her hand even has been seen to appear on camera gently rearranging his hair in midsure him that she had not gone away.

But, for all her high-pitched

defensiveness, this is no faithful-Tory-wife stand-by-yourman act. Alongside his weakwatery-eyed chinned. apologetic smirk, she routinely appears steadfast, certain and full of high-octane moral indig-nation. But, though she is dismissive of local suggestions that she is the ventriloquist and he the dummy, she did once admit: "I am the organiser and administrator. I am very efficient, so I have just taken that side over, and Neil lets me get on with it."

and does whatever the job ever, that the relationship is ital motto she says is WDTT -We Do Things Together. "We have an utterly blissful, unshakeable, rock-solid marriage and always will have. We do everything together - work

together, play together."
For all that, she has borne the brunt of the three weeks of unremitting media scrutiny. It is she who answers the phone and the door at their large, cream-painted converted vicarage, set in acres of land with its own stream, dozens of rose bushes and weeping willows, in Nether Alderley,

She is, she says, the kind of Knutsford in Cheshire. It is political wife 'who gets stuck in she who has constantly emerged with a chill schooldemands". She insists, how- marmly politeness to chase reporters - "reptiles" and lined gravel drive and even to uphraid the BBC for parking an could return to the hotel - and outside broadcast van beside the house. "Get that bloody of the hotel's owner Mohamed

> said, pointing to the van's 6 With a chill large aerial in a momentary politeness she lapse from her chases reporters studied civility. But, more significantly. snakes - from she is at the centre of what

has been called influence" that prompted the cash-for-questions enquiry. It was Christine Hamilton who introduced her husband to the lobbyist Ian Greer and to Michael Grylls, Mr Greer's close contact in the Commons. It was her signature which appeared on the receipt from the Peter Jones depart-

ment store for a set of expensive garden furniture for which Ian Greer paid. It was she who booked the room at the Paris

Ritz which set the sleaze alle-

gations in motion - and where

to sit down and write an

offer odds on it.

- reptiles,

the drive 9

she and Mr Hamilton charged everything to their room, even down to postage stamps, and ate every meal on offer, including afternoon tea, running up a when the couple asked if they were told by the irritated office great penis away from the Al Fayed that it was full - it was hedge," she

who phoned the hotel to check and humiliatingly discovered that there were plenty of rooms Yet, in the teeth of all this.

she has contin-

mently to deny the key cash-for-questions allegation that bundles of £50 notes were paid in brown envelopes by Mr Al Fayed to Mr Hamilton in the hope of parliamentary favours and that Mrs Hamilton phoned his office in Harrods to

chase up cash payments.
Small wonder that she has said there are nights when she has trouble sleeping and spends the midnight bours crying. "You would be superhuman not to have cried at some stage over

thetic interviewer. But never in public. Despite the unceasing pressure, she has never publicly cracked. Christine Hamilton (née Holman), a GP's daughter Forest, was educated - like two other political wives, Mrs Paddy Ashdown and Lady Wilson - at Wentworth School Bournemouth, "which teaches

middle-class gals not to blub, complain or let down the side". From there she went to York University to study sociology, where her close friends included two future Tory MPs - Michael Brown, who is also at the centre of cash-for-questions allegations, and Harvey Proctor, who had to resign after being convicted for indecency.

It was at university that she met Neil Hamilton at a Young Conservatives Conference in Ripon. "It sounds absurd, but our eyes met across a crowded room," she has said. "He had great big Victorian sideburns and was already going grey. It was love at first sight for both

Yet there was a sign of the political steeliness to come. Despite fancying him she did not vote for her future husband in a ballot for the chairmanship of the Federation of Conservative Students but instead this," she once told a sympa-. endorsed Andrew Neil, later



enters the electoral fray in defence of the former trade minister Photographs (clockwise from top left): Cavendish

the editor of the Sunday Times. And subsequently, after three years courting Neil Hamilton. she dumped him when she got her first post in the Commons as secretary to the flamboyant backbencher Sir Gerald Nabarro and later the right-wing MP Michael Grylls. "Poor Neil was a perpetual student. He didn't want to go out into the big wide world, so he spent about eight years at university," she later said. "I just realised that I had to make a break. It was awful, a bit like kicking a dog." She married Neil Hamilton five days before his 1983 election to the safe scat of Tatton. There was no honcymoon - the very next morning they were back campaignhis Cheshire

Since then she has dedicated herself to his career singlemindedly - the couple "by mutual consent" have no children. She has everything to lose if her husband backs down or is defeated. No wonder her toughness and loyalty are openly on display as never before. (There have been previous flashes when her husband and Harvey Proctor were punched in Mr Proctor's shirt shop in Richmond it was Mrs Hamilton who pursued the assailants through the street). More recently when Alan Rusbridger, the editor of The Guardian, took part in a blunt head-on clash with the extrade minister on Newsnight, the journalist was advised by BBC staff not to leave via the hospitality room where "Christine Hamilton is offering to plant one on your nose".

It is this relentlessness which prompts a grudging admiration for Mrs Hamilton, even among those with little time for her sense of political propriety. My husband is not a quitter, she told reporters this week, but there are many who suspect that the drive and determination in reality emanate from ber. "Christine Hamilton has the valour of the early Christian martyrs and truly does make one wonder how the British ever lost the Empire," wrote the considerably more sympathetic Lynda I se-Potter in the Daily Mail yesterday, though even she comments on her ruthlessness. When Ms Lee-Potter interviewed her, the Hamiltons gave her a lift to a taxi rank at the end of their conversation. "It was the middle of the rush hour and as I got out I was nearly run over. Ms Lee-Potter wrote at the time. " How awful if you'd got killed, said Christine Hamilton. All our hard work would be wasted."

It was a joke, one assumes. The Hamiltons are good at jokes. Remember the ginger biscuit which the MP quipped he had been given on a factory visit and would declare? (How Mr Major must have chuckled). There was her jaunty disclosure that "Neil's favourite song The Laughing Policeman" Then there are the toys on the lawn of their Cheshire home which Mrs Hamilton claims belong to a friend's children but which opponents criticise as constituency image-building. And then there is the sign in the porch welcoming visitors with the warning: "If the dogs are loose, stand completely still, do not move until the owner comes." The Hamiltons have no dogs. Which just goes to show that you shouldn't believe everything you read in print, quips Mrs Hamilton. Over the portal of the rectory

is a Latin motto: deus nobis haec otia fecit - these hours of ease are God given. "I think it is true to say that all political careers end in tears," Christine Hamilton once wrote. Come 2 May, she may have both the hours to spend and the tears to fill them. If so, she will surely shed them in private. .

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MUNICIPAL Forusing on the Public Sector

Ireland – a role model for the Israelis rom time to time, whenever the Israeli only one I have ever written criticising Israel, and that was a column in *The Times*, years L' government behaves like a bunch of bullies, I want ago. It was at a time when the USSR was refusing to let article wondering why the

Israelis are behaving like a bunch of bullies, but I never do, for three reasons. One is that the likelihood of the Israeli government reading the article and saying You know something? Maybe Kington's got a point there, maybe we should be the victorious Israeli army advancing through the USSR and encircling Moscow, but nicer to people" is so slight that William Hill would not purely, according to Israeli

The second is that it would have overtones of anti-Semitism. For some reason that I have never quite fathomed, criticism of any Jewish institution has an anti-Semitic taint, (There was a time when Menachem Begin seemed to like to turn this to his own advantage, and would, it seemed to me, defend Israel's actions, sometimes outrageous actions, by declaiming a speech which boiled down in. ssence to saying "Have you all forgotten the Holocaust so soon? And now you are

criticising us?")
And the third is connected to an article which, to my uncertain recollection, is the

Russian Jews emigrate to Israel. It was also at a time when Begin liked to present every Israeli military action, no matter how punitive or pre-emptive, as a purely defensive action designed to protect Israel, So I painted a brief scenario in which I saw

gesture. The only point I was making, if any, was that there had to be a limit to the description of your military actions as defensive, but that was not how the readers saw it. Three days later the editor of The Times, Charles Douglas-Home, rang me up and said he had been made miserable by the concerted phone calls he had had from Jewish organisations and lobbies protesting against the

sources, as a defensive

writing a piece criticising the Arab world? This was a pretty dumb suggestion, and I said so, and

he said, placate them by

tenor of my piece. Couldn't L



Miles Kington

he shyly agreed that it was, so we came to a compromise. I said I would lay off Israel, in future, even if I were to leave The Times and go to The Independent, which was pretty far-sighted of me, as the paper did not even exist then. So that is why you will not find me going around criticising Israel. It is in memory of a promise I made to the late Charles Douglas-Home.

I will say one thing, though. It is curious the way in which Israel's image has changed over the years. Once upon a time Israel was the underdog, the little guy who got pushed around by the big guys but always outsmarted them.

When things happened like the Munich shootings, they had a surge of world sympathy. They pulled off daring stunts, like rescuing hostages from Uganda, or bombing Egyptian aerodromes from the wrong angle and fooling everyone.

and we all thought this was pretty smart. That has all gone now. Israel is seen more as a bully boy today, with the USA hanging around like a huge but simple-minded bouncer.

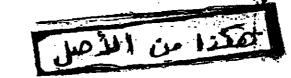
In fact, it is curious the way the image of a country can change at all. You would imagine that our view of a neighbouring state or people would stay pretty constant. but it doesn't. It seems hard to believe that France was once our great enemy, but she was, and for far longer than we have ever thought of Germany as a foe. Germany is no longer the foe, either, nor the USSR. That leaves only

Australia ... But the most astonishing thing to me is the way in which the image of Ireland has gone round through 180 degrees in the last 10 years. Up to 10 years ago we lieved, in the teeth of all the evidence, that the Irish were stupid. We still fostered a view of the average Irishman as a

thick navvy on a building site or a mad bomber. We told Irish jokes in which the only point was that the Irish were stupid, and it seemed as if the Irish joke would never go

And now magically it has, and although some of the Irish are still good at bombing (and we are still good at putting the wrong people unside for doing it) the image of Ireland has changed entirely. Nowadays Ireland is thought of as a place that produces great writing and great dancing (from the knees down, at least) and great comedians and great heer and great television comedy and great music, and great runs in the World Cup, and great films, and when the Irish do occasionally do something genuincly stupid (such as be 100led into winning the Eurovision Song Contest year after year) we only chuckle. sympathetically.

So, Israel, take heart. Things do get hetter. NB I also have a leatlet available which I can recommend called The English us Others See Us. It contains fairly shocking and unpleasant material and should not be read by the faint-hearted.



few days ago, when I was guest on a phone in on Moscow Echo radio, the interviewer asked me about the Platon Obukhov case. Platon is the 28-year-old Russian diplo-mat who was arrested exactly a year ago on charges of spying for the British secret service as for the British secret service, as a result of which several members of the British embassy in Moscow and of the Russian embassy in London were expelled on a tit-for-tar basis reminiscent of the Cold War. I said that I knew very little about it. I had no idea whether

or not Platon was spying. How-lever, I had heard that he has mental problems, which would complicate the legal position. If he was spying for Britain, he might be tried under Russian law. But if he was mentally ill at the time, any trial on such a charge would be a travesty of justice. A man cannot be a schizophrenic and a traitor simultaneously. Returning to the Metropole

Hotel late that evening, I was telephoned by Anatoli Kucherena, Platon's lawyer, inviting me to call on him. The next morning I went to his office and spoke to him for an hour. I also met Olga Obukhova, Platon's mother. Platon's father, Aleksei, is an eminent Russian diplomat, a former Soviet deputy foreign minister and a disarmament expert. A year ago, when Platon was arrested, his parents lived in Copenhagen, where Aleksei was ambassador.

Anatoli and Olga asked me to explain Platon's case, and especially his medical problems and the conditions under which he is being kept, to Amnesty International and other world organisations. I have done this.

One could say that the story so far shows how dramatically democracy has advanced in Russia in recent years. Until a few years ago I was not allowed into Russia, still years ago I was not allowed into Russia, still ined by psychiatrists appointed by the ministry less to speak on the radio, and it would have of defence. Doctors nominated by his family been the kiss of death for any Moscow defending lawyer to ask a foreigner to help his client, especially in an espionage tase.

But the story has another side, for which I

was not prepared. The Russian security service (known as "FSB") has seen better days. It used to be the all-pervasive KGB, with bundreds of thousands of staff and millions of occasional informers. Its men and women were well paid. But now, with the Cold War being over, its value ds under question and its budget is always being but. The suspicion is that the FSB is using the Obukhov case to justify its existence.

A year ago officers of the FSB announced the discovery of 38 spies in high Russian positions. The arrest of Platon was proclaimed as the smashing of a ring of super-spies and the first in a series of future FSB successes. Russians waited with bated breath to find out who the other 37 would be. But no names have been announced and some Russians are sceptical enough to wonder whether they exist

Having announced this great catch, it is embarrassing when they have only one minnow to show for it. And it is even more embarrassing when it emerges that Platon has a history of mental health problems, kept secret since his childhood by his professionally successful family, and that he is in no condition to be put



Nicholas

Bethell

 $^{\circ}$ He is 28

years old.

He looks 70.

with a long

beard, like

Dostoyevsky

when he

returned

from

Siberia'

in a Moscow jail

The strange case

of Britain's 'spy'

up as a defendant in the sort of show trial that they would like

Anatoli and Olga painted for me a picture of a deeply disturbed young man — of great energy, a linguist and a writer. He has written 18 books, eight of them already sold for £2,000 each to publishers who was of them already sold for £2,000 each to publishers who specialise in intrigue, spies, violence and sex. "My son is ill, but he is not an idiot," Olga says. "He lives in an upside-down world all of his own. His latest book is called *The Murder of the Mayor of Vladivostok*."

His other book's which his

His other books, which his mother showed me, all laid out ou a table, have similarly hurid covers and titles. Femme Patale, Game of Death and The Sex Demon. They are books, it seems, that Muscovites read in the metro. He writes at amazing speed, 20 pages a day, and poetry in English about sharks and phantoms. It is the product of a disturbed mind.

Platon spent last summer in Lefortovo prison under interrogation. On 28 July, he was shown on Russian television blabbering incoherently, wearblabbering incoherently, wearing a smock, a dunce's cap and mismatching socks. "The aim was to humiliate my client, to make people hate him," Anatoli says. "In fact, people just felt sorry for him." Anatoli complains that his client is being denied medical and legal help as well as visits from his family. "Things are supposed to have Things are supposed to have changed in this country. But my client's case shows the FSB behaving like the KGB did in

This line of attack is exactly

what John Major and his people

have been using in the House of

Commons for months, though voters are expressing it better. In logic, it is unfair on Labour. It

is the old damned-if-they-do, damned-if-they-don't Conserv-

ative encirclement strategy:

either Labour hasn't really

changed, in which case they are dangerous or they have

changed, in which case they are

Either way, the logical con-clusion is that only the Tories

can ever be trusted to govern which hardly chimes with our

experience of the past few years. Labour, though, has made this strategy easier for the Prime Minister than it might otherwise

have been. After tacking cleverly

towards more popular and cen-

trist positions, they have moved

too close to the Conservatives in

recent weeks, while being too

timid about emphasising their

Without Gordon Brown's

adoption of Kenneth Clarke's

borrowing and spending totals, Labour would not have been so

vulnerable to the £1.5bn "tax

hole" charge and would not have had to emphasise its readi-

ness to embark on a new pri-

vatisation programme - and would not, therefore, have con-

tradicted itself on the air traf-

fic control sale and fallen into

This is how policies unravel;

and there are other examples.

Had Blair not been concen-

trating on Tory thinking about

devolution, and minimised his

yesterday's problems.

own distinctive agenda.

inconstant and synthetic.

the old days."

The FSB by now understood its problem. Could it really present this sad creature as an evil super-spy? On 5 November it transferred him to the infamous Serbsky Institute, where Vladimir Bukovsky and other

well-known dissidents used to be tortured because of their political views. He was examwere allowed no access. On 5 February this year he was transferred to the medical wing of

"That report has been written and rewritten many times," Olga says. It was made known to her early this week and yesterday on the telephone from Moscow she told me what it says. Platon is mentally ill, it seems. But he became mentally ill in prison. When he committed his act of treason for British intelligence he was sane. That means apparently that he can now be treated for his illness. Then, when he is fit to stand trial, he can face the charge of treason in court and, if convicted, undergo the

appropriate penalty.

Meanwhile, he lives in a 15-man cell in
Butyrka jail. There are four bunks in which the men take turns to sleep. Anatoli saw him a week ago. "He is 28 years old. He looks 70 vears old, with a long beard, like Dostoyevsky when he returned from Siberia."

The only food provided in the cell is cabbage. Prisoners are expected to be fed by their families. Every few days Olga goes to Butyrka and queues for four or five hours, in order to deliver a parcel to her son. No metal or glass is allowed in the parcel and no coffee. Chocolate is permitted. She knows that the better the parcel. the better her son is liable to be treated by the 14 other disturbed men who share his cell.

Blair begins to feel the electoral heat

by Andrew Marr



Labour's poll lead has encouraged a stultifying caution, and made the party vulnerable to attack from the Tories and the voters

rule with the "English parish sumption of a mere war correconneil" comparison, last week's policy problem would have been avoided. This busi-ness of trying to offend nobody

It also means Labour is failing to exploit its strongest alternative selling points and boldest pre-electoral thinking. It doesn't highlight its own good policies on predatory pricing presumably because it doesn't want to offend Murdoch. Or take political reform. Blair is fastidiously leaving the sleaze issue, for the most part, to the newspapers and political out-siders like Martin Bell.

One can understand his thinking. For many people, "sleaze" has become a turn-off. The word, though sibilantly irresistible, is unhelpful to the extent that it confuses sexual escapades with serious allegations of corruption and the abuse of power. But there are real issues here which ought to be close to the heart of the election campaign.

Don't get me wrong. We should wish Bell well. It has been instructive to see the possessive fury of the Tory politi- that we should be putting these own policy of Scottish home cians and pundits at the pre- sorts of issues behind us.

spondent butting into their game - what right has he, they ask, what experience and knowledge? (The experience, I suppose, not to trouser envelopes from tycoons stuffed with high-denomination notes.) Were Bell elected, that would be a cheering thing for democracy, not a coup by the cynical metropoli-tan media. The best thing about Martin Bell MP would be that he would not be obliged to take a party whip or line; a Commons

spirits would have a far better hance of regaining its popularity than one that didn't. But the problem with what is happening in Tatton is that aze" has been removed from the bigger political context and turned into a personal struggle, the honour or lack of it of one Conservative ex-minister. This implies that the issue of government conduct can be resolved by verbal jousts on Knutsford Common or a show of hands in a Cheshire pub. Indeed, Major and Michael Heseltine are saying already

which contained at least some

free radicals and independent

Which is, the moment you think about it, the equivalent of saying that we should be putting some of the most dramatic political events of the past few years behind us.

Had Labour been more confident and excited about its programme of political reform. it would have been explaining how standards in public life, past governmental failures such trol he and his team exercise, as the BSE saga, the murkier corners of party funding, the erosion of public service and the spread of quangos are all connected - how, during the past 18 years, a closed, dank web of favours and private relationships has spread through the heart of the British state.

Labour people would have been reminding the country is at work, and this campaign is that "Nolan", far from being a coming jumpingly alive. And it catch-all Tory rebuttal to ques- is hard to be persuasive while tions about standards, was set you're biting your tongue.

up as a defensive measure; and that Major tried in the Commons to neuter the committee's impact. They would have been raising the Scott inquiry, and the Government's frankly shabby response to it. Blair would have been banging on, day after day, about freedom of information, new rights and the repair of democracy. Labour, in short, would have

been replying to the perfectly proper scrutiny of its recently buried beliefs, with a similar scrutiny of the Conservatives' recently buried actions. But no: for some reason, political reform is deemed unsuitable as a mainstream election topic. It has been as if Labour is slightly alarmed about its own constitutional agenda.

The reason, I assume, is that Labour's huge poll lead has encouraged a strategy of caution and conservatism, focused only on the Middle English swing voters who are deemed all-important. Logical enough: which ought to be challenging has become the incumbent, and the party of 18 years in office is attacking like the Opposition. Labour is standing there holding its popularity with Middle England like some huge, rare and infinitely fragile glazed pot, which might crash to the ground if it attempts to move a muscle or even breathes out.

The overall impression of a Labour press conference is of a roomful of zipped lips, buttoned imaginations and clenched buttocks - a party trapped by its own opinion-poll lead. The atmosphere is oppressive, and only made more so by the moronic pop song, "Things can only get bet-ter" that echoes through the campaign - somewhere between Prozac and Muzak.

Now it may be that all this is nothing but shrewd realpolitik and will give New Labour a vic-tory of historic and breathtaking proportions. Blair has taken his party to the very edge of such a victory, and to a hugely impressive position, partly because of the tight conand partly because of his own brand of reassuringly centrist politics. He has created a broad, if shallow, coalition of views and interests far wider than before. Perhaps nothing matters more than three more weeks of self-discipline, caution and risk-avoidance.

But the political accelerator

met up with Nemesis last Saturday. She was nothing like what I expected. Let me explain. For some years now, I've been having this intense relationship with the Inland Revenue. They're a weird bunch. First they send you a

frighteningly off-the-wall estimate of how much cash you might owe if you lived in some parallel universe where a) you earned £870,546,929 per annum and b) all the tax you owed in every one of your 75 previous karmic existences had, in addition, fallen due at exactly the same time, je autumn 1996. Šo you look at this figure, marvel at its extravagance and wonder how to fight back. You get an accountant to plead your case with the tax authorities, pointing out that, taking into account three bus tickets and a modest invoice from the Stockpot restaurant in London W1, your tax liability should in fact be £102.02.

The Revenue respond with redoubled fury. They hombard you with demands for ever-moreunfeasible amounts of money. A blizzard of buff envelopes begins to silt up the front hall. Forcing one of them from the slavering jaws of the family labrador (trained to attack anything with the legend OHMS), you make out the words "...now stands at £237,596,574,076.60. Interest continues to accrue daily."

How did this happen? Once you worked, you earned a bit, you did a bit of overtime, you owed a bit of tax, everything was fine - then WOOMPH! next thing, you owe the people at Taxation Central more than the combined debts of Robert Maxwell, the Duchess of York and to government of Mexico. Your accountant is not your friend any longer. He has sided with the baddies. More buff envelopes cascade upon your few sad last grey hairs. They promise penalties, court appearances,

Nemesis arrives in the shape of a tax inspector demanding a frightening amount based on earnings in some parallel universe

the Marshalsea nick, the Little Ease. Wild remedies occur to you. Perhaps I could plead with the European Court of Human Rights. Perhaps I could get some hired muscle ("So you want to discuss tax assessment No 531874, do you, Mr Snodgrass? I think you'll have to talk it over with my friend here ...") against the day they come for me. Because you know you're now beyond the point of being physically able to write a cheque to

vour tormenters. You stop eating. The children look at your haggard face and run yelping to school. The words "distrain your chattels" – which have appeared in the most recent buff envelope - nag in your head, like in a Frities B-movie. You know they'll. come any day now: the bailiffs, a couple of beadles, a SWAT team of marksmen and, in the middle, a



smoothly efficient sadist in a car coat and an atrocious haircut, saying "Right, first we'll take the hi-fi, the Apple Mac, the electric orange-squeezing thingy in the kitchen and your favourite swirly waistcoat. Then the lawnmower, the dishwasher and the baby ... And in the end, Nemesis did

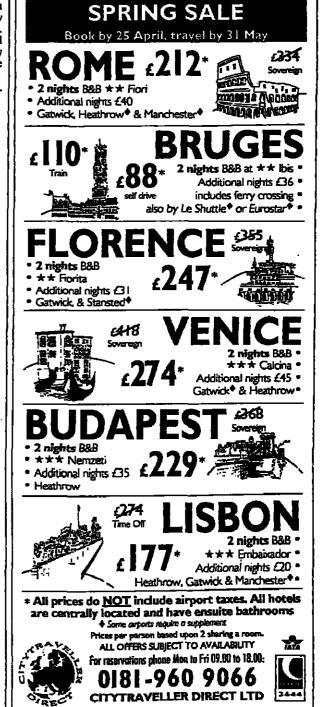
arrive. Saturday morning, 10.45, the doorbell rang, and a small Irish woman appeared on the doorstep, like Delia Smith only a smidgen more determined. "Have you got a minute?" she asked. "We must have a word about some unpaid tax," as if she'd noticed some of the stuff lying tragically in the road. I looked around. Where were the bailiffs? The trained muskets? Where ...? "It'll only take a minute," she said, brushing past.
Five minutes later, she

shimmered out again, bearing a cheque (not all that big) in triumph and heading for her bus. I hated the Inland Revenue more than ever, but months of gathering clouds, a slowbuilding avalanche of angst and trauma, had all suddenly evaporated. I went out into the spring sunshine, hopelessly skint and oddly redeemed.

Political surprise of the week was surely Jeffrey Archer's blurted revelation on Channel 4 th revelation on Channel 4 the other night that he calls John Major "Sir" when they're together. It's apparently his normal form of address when the two are driving around chewing the fat about the prospects of a Labour government. It seems an odd picture, doesn't it, the two classless-society boys, one now a lord, the other now the Prime Minister, deferring away to each other like courtiers at Versailles. You wonder if Archer was taking the mickey and using the word in inverted commas, as if to say, "Fli call you 'sir' as long as you remember that I'm a peer of the realm and you're just a career politician." But then it's more likely that Lord Archer just likes the smell of countliness, the tat of chivalric exchange. I expect the PM had to stop him saying "Sire". Or, indeed, "My liege ..."

he Beverly Hills Tour of London" is how they
describe it in the brochure a chance to gawp at "celebrities" going about their ordinary lives. In Los Angeles it's part of the tourist itinerary. You drive up in a coach, park outside's Madonna's hacienda or Sly Stallone's penthouse, dish out binoculars to the \$30-a-head suckers from New Jersey, and pretend that the sight of a film star's mailbox, door knocker or velvet curtains is the next best thing to having dinner with them. Sadly, it almost guarantees you won't spot anybody at all. Now it has come to London. "Showbiz Tours" (there is, at present, precisely one tour) is offering to squire clutches of rubber-necking tourists round the "Driveways of the Rich and Famous" in Hampstead and St John's Wood. That word "driveways" is so redolent of British diffidence, of patio-doors blandness: we will not show you these people's homes, but we will point out their front path, their silver

birch, their wheelie-bin ... The lucky recipients of this attention are a mixed bag. The adjectives "rich and famous" may well describe Peter O'Toole and Emma Thompson, but seem hardly appropriate to describe John Keats (though you can see "the tree under which Keats composed his legendary Ode to a Nightingale), nor George Orwell, John Constable, HG Wells, Frend, RL Stevenson ... Cunningly, Showbiz Tours mixes dead blue-chip blue-plaque writers with living rock stars such as George Michael and Boy George, as if they shared the same celebrity status, presumably in the hope that the thicker star-spotters won't be able to tell the difference; the next stage is to convince them that the man with the wispy moustache emerging from the corner shop with 20 Woodbines is indeed the author of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde ...



Boy 1: Harmanne Town 1 Methods 2: Warmannon tige First Division: West Ham 1 Swindon 3.

business & city BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

Ladbroke chief under fire after 266% rise

Control of the second s

Ladbroke Group's incentive scheme for directors came under attack yesterday after it emerged that Peter George, chief executive, pocketed almost £1.3m in 1996 - a 266 per cent rise over the £481,000 he was paid in the previous year.

At the centre of the controversy is Ladbroke's long term incentive scheme, which was introduced when Mr George became chief executive three years ago and which rewards directors on the performance of the share price of the betting shops, casinos and hotels company.

Even Ladbroke's remuneration committee, headed by John Jackson - chairman of the group, admits that the scheme could be over generous.

The committee will propose at next month's annual general meeting to make the scheme more demanding, mainly through changing the performance measure to a mixture of share price performance and earnings per share growth. And the committee also wants the wards to be made in shares rather than cash.

The current scheme is based

began to pay off at the end of last year. In the three years 1994-96 the Ladbroke share stick for measuring management performance."

However, the scheme has price rose 42 per cent placing the company in 23rd position among the 93 constituents of the FTSE 100 which survived those three years in the index.

However, the scheme has

some supporters. One analyst

said: "How else do you deliv-

relation to the share price?

The concept of total return to

investors is now widely accept-

said that nobody expected the directors of Ladbroke to return

the big bonuses they have col-

lected if the share price were to

go into a tailspin.
The pay details, contained in

the latest annual report and ac-

counts, also show that on top of

last years 266 per cent rise in Mr

George's pay packet he gained a £40,000 rise in his basic salary

In addition his pension scheme was topped up by a further £279,000. Mr George,

now 53, joined the company as

a teenager on the betting shops

side. He took over the reins as

chief executive at the beginning of 1994 from the company's

founder, Cyril Stein. In all the

pay of the four executive di-

rectors rose last year from £1.86m to £3.6m. Mr George,

Mr Jarvis, who left Allied

Domecq in August 1995 with a

£688,000 pay-off and joined

to run the hotels business, col-

lected £657,000 in 1996. He was

paid £98,000 for three months'

Mr Smith, who runs the bet-

year earlier. Finance director

Separately, compensation payments of £564,000 were paid

to two former directors of T&N

last year, while the group's

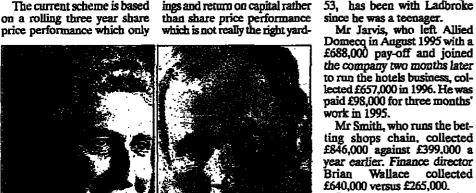
vork in 1995.

to £450,000.

A points system for each executive with a value per point of £1.60 for being in the top quarter in terms of share price performance gave Mr George £600,000, and £800,000 shared between three other directors. They were Mike Smith, who re-ceived £400,000, Brian Wallace, who picked up 234,000, and David Jarvis, who got

The huge leaps in the pay packets prompted sharp reac-tion in the City. Paul Heath, leisure sector analyst at UBS said: "The scheme came into effect at a usefully low point in the share price cycle for the company. Certainly the City does not believe the performance has been achieved by exceptionally good management."

He added: "Shareholders certainly want incentives for the directors but I believe they should be more related to earnings and return on capital rather



Andrew Regan would slash annual bill and strip out layers of management



chairman, Sir Colin Hope, re- New for old: A Co-op executive's car parked outside the Co-op Bank and the old

Lanica plans £10m wholesale, cuts for Co-op

Nigel Cope City Correspondent

Andrew Regan would cut the Co-operative Wholesale Soci-ety's central costs by £10m, introduce bumper incentive schemes for employees and prune middle management if his approach to the Co-op movement proves successful

The details are the first to emerge of the 31-year-old's strategy if his Lanica Trust vehicle wins control of parts of the CWS's non-food interests.

Though Lanica would not comment yesterday, it is understood that it has estimated the CWS's central office costs in Manchester to be around £16m per year, including heavy costs for the executive committee and support staff. Some two-thirds of the costs would be stripped out.

The Co-op employs 2.500 staff in the main Manchester offices of the CWS, Co-operative Insurance Society, the Coop Bank and the Co-operative Union.

Lower-level jobs at the CWS would not be severely affected by Mr Regan's plans. Incentive schemes would be introduced to morivate the rank and file. These would be similar to schemes introduced at his previous vehicle Hobson, which bought the Co-op's food manufacturing

The details come ahead of the CWS annual results, due to be published on Monday. As well as confirming a poor year for the business it is expected that they will reveal details of the retirement package of the previous chief executive. David Skinner. There is speculation that it could involve a payment of two years' salary plus continued use of his

company Jaguar.

Though Mr Regan has missed the deadline for resolutions for the CWS annual meeting next month, it is possible that a supportive Co-operative member

to discuss the issue. It is thought that Lanica Trust would prefer its proposals to be discussed in a single-issue meeting rather than have its motion compete with a host of others at an agm. Lanica Trust also felt that using the annual meeting would have appeared hostile.
Though there have been sug-

gestions that Mr Regan has the support of some of the regional societies, one chief executive of a small Co-op said yesterday: "We would strongly support the line taken by Graham Melmoth [the CWS chief executive] and oppose the approach that has been made. As mutuals without a fluctuating share price to dis-tract us and through generations of accounting policies the move-ment has built up considerable internal reserves. But that wealth is not there to be plundered. We are the custodians of it. We are charged with cultivating it and handing it on to the next

However, the chief executive added that he accepted that the movements fragmentation was a problem and that he would 'strongly support" a merger of the CWS and Co-operative Retailer Services, the other main Co-op division.

Mr Melmoth made similar comments to a group of Co-op managers in Solihull last Friday. He is quoted in the latest issue of Co-operative News as saving sonality". Though he repeated his tough stance on the Lanica ment should make its assets work harder. He hinted at a moving together of the CWS and CRS though he did not use the

term, "merger". He said that if the two camps were to move closer they would form a stronger commercial added: "It is possible that the interesting diversion of Lanica over the last few weeks ... will

with creation of 600 new jobs

Chris Godsmark **Business Correspondent**

Ionica, the telephone operator that combines wireless technology with fixed phone lines, has announced a drive to create up to 600 jobs in Birmingham following what it claimed had been stronger-than-expected consumer demand.

The jobs, most of which are in customer support and sales operations, come before the planned launch of Ionica's service in Birmingham, due within weeks. Coverage has aiready been extended from East Anglia, where Ionica began its service last summer, across the East Midlands. The company aims to cover most of the UK, except Scotland, by 2002. The new jobs, based in offices

in the centre of Birmingham, will all be the equivalent of fulltime posts, though the company said numbers employed may go beyond 600 if applicants wanted to join part-time.

The expansion will intensify pressure on British Telecom, the principal target of Ionica's assault on the domestic market. It uses radio signals to relay phone lines from the home to nearby base stations, bypassing BT's near-monopoly of local

2116.60 +11.10

17703.37 -318.33

exchange lines. Earlier this week BT announced plans to create a further 2,000 telephone marketing jobs as the competitive threat from rival operators has reached what many industry experts believe is

Nigel Playford, chief execu-tive, said: "We are only targeting BT customers. We are not marketing ourselves against the cable companies. The existence of cable has enabled us to create our own strategy which is hugely different."

Ionica offers a 15 per cent cut in call charges over BT and 20 per cent lower line rental bills. Other innovations include providing three separate numbers for every line, each with different ringing tones, to help family members to identify the

destination of incoming calls.

Mr Playford claimed Ionica was connecting customers at the rate of 3,000 a month in the East Midlands, faster than the local cable company. So far more than 15,000 homes in East Anglia have switched to Ionica, mostly from BT, out of a potential 700,000 which can take the service.

The company says it is on course to float on the stock mar-

Bey's change Change(%) 1996/97 High 1996/97 Lev Yield(%)

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-1.8 -22666.80 17303.65 0.88† +0.2 13868.24 12055.17 3.38† +0.9 3480.64 2848.77 1.61†

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2163.94 1989.78 3.66

5032.94 1.97

STOCK MARKETS

Ionica chases BT Weinberg deals Pru a stake in St James's Place,

Tom Stevenson City Editor

Sir Mark Weinberg crystallised another fortune from the life assurance business yesterday, reversing the J Rothschild insurance company he founded six years ago into his quoted vehicle St James's Place Capital. The 65-year-old, South African-born entrepreneur and Rothschild's two other founders will receive more than £2m each when they sell part of their combined £35m holding in the enlarged company

The linked deals, which Sir

Mark described as the completion of a process that started with last year's separation of St James's life assurance interests from former business partner Lord Rothschild's investment activities, will also give up to 60 founder "partners" in J Rothschild shares worth about £150,000 each.

For the Pru, the acquisition by tender of a 29.9 per cent stake in St James's Place for £39.6m represents a move into the upper end of the personal financial services market, bring-ing it closer to J Rothschild's wealthy client base. It has made

an assurance not to increase its stake for at least a year and has said it agrees that St James should remain independently managed and maintain a separate stock market listing.
It is the second time Sir Mark

has grown and then cashed in on a life assurance business, having sold Hambro Life to BAT in the early 1980s. His personal stake in J Rothschild amounts to almost £12m. His co-founders, Mike Wilson and Keith Carby,

have similar holdings. Sir Mark said yesterday the catalyst for the complex deal was the recent £2.9bn takeover

Amicable, which joined forces with St James's Place Capital in 1991 to form J Rothschild Assurance and remained a significant shareholder. The takeover meant the Pru's stake in St James rose from around 3.5 per cent to around 22 per cent. By tendering for further shares it plans to take its holding to the maximum allowable under takeover panel rules without be-

by the Prudential of Scottish

ing forced to make a full offer. Nine-month figures yesterday showed J Rothschild growing its life assurance business almost

market. New business grew by 39 per cent last year compared with just 24 per cent for a comparable spread of Association of British Insurers members.

Mike Wilson, chief executive, said that outperformance re-flected the high quality of Rothschild's sales force, where employees had an average 11 years' financial services experience and were required to have worked in the industry for at least three years before joining.

After rapid growth during its short existence, Rothschild now sells more new policies than Britannic and United Assurance and two thirds as many as Abbey Life and Scottish Ami-

Following the reverse takeover, about three-quarters of St James's Place's business close down ailing life insurers, and Global Asset Management, an institutional fund manager. On the basis of St James's closing share price yesterday of 131p, up 5.5p, the enlarged company will be valued at £562m.

Chancellor expected to hold rates

Diane Coyle Economics Editor

The economic conditions give Kenneth Clarke strong grounds to resist increasing base rates at today's monetary meeting with the Governor of the Bank of England, while bequeathing to the next Chancellor the need for a post-election rise in the cost

of borrowing. Fresh figures yesterday showed a surprise drop in total industrial production in Feb-ruary masking a steady upward trend in its manufacturing component. Meanwhile the pound climbed above DM2.79, partly in the expectation that interest rates will go up next month.

6.97

6.56

0.58

Germany 3.16

mortgage rates will rise when base rates are finally increased, election-related uncertainty is denting people's optimism about house prices, according to Barclays Bank.

Its monthly survey showed that levels of mortgage advances were still rising - in March they were 15 per cent up on a year earlier. But the proportion expecting house prices to rise has slipped from 69 per cent to 61 per cent.

"While the uncertainty will probably be short-lived, it is unfortunate that people are holding back at an ideal time to buy a home," said Jim Chadwick, marketing director at Barclays

Long Book (%) Near Ago

Principle Charge 60 % Charge

6.85

INTEREST RATES

With the likelihood that Mortgages. The bank warned and plastic declined. The ortgage rates will rise when that demand for properties still strongest sectors were metals far outstripped supply.

Official statistics showed that total industrial production dropped by 0.6 per cent in February. The warmer-than-usual weather was the culprit, with lower electricity and gas pro-duction and lower North Sea extraction.

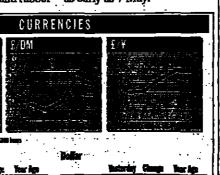
Manufacturing output increased by 0.2 per cent during February, and its January increase was revised up to 0.5 per cent. Production is now growing 1.8 per cent year-on-year, the best since late 1995.

In the latest three-month period the production of both textiles and clothing and rubber and engineering, the latter very

reliant on exports.
The strength of domestic demand is offsetting the impact of the stronger pound on exports," said Jonathan Loynes, UK econ-

omist at HSBC Markets. City economists remain cautious about the potential impact of the strong pound. "Manufacturers are by no means out of the woods," said Mr Loynes.

But even if industry does remain subdued, a majority of analysts think the strength of the rest of the economy means the cost of borrowing will have to go up after the election, possibly as early as 7 May.



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BG and Ofgas at odds over MMC delay

Chris Godsmark **Business Correspondent**

The rift between British Gas and the industry watchdog, Ofgas, appeared to deepen yesterday after the two sides offered sharply opposing explanations for a six-week delay to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC) investigation into price cuts proposed for the company's pipeline network, TransCo. Ofgas said the MMC's report,

which had been due to be handed over on 14 April, would not now be passed across until 31 May. It confirms indications last week of delays to the investigation, which were fuelled when Clare Spottiswoode, the regulator, was called to an additional hearing before the MMC's panel on Tuesday.

The MMC began its inquiry last October after British Gas, since renamed BG, rejected Ms Spottiswoode's proposals to cut about £30 off average gas bills from this month. According to BG this would slash TransCo's revenues by at least £400m a year. The company has warned t would have to make up to half TransCo's 20,000 workforce redundant and might not be able to pay dividends if the plans

is unlikely to be published until the middle of June. It also means the decisions about implementing the MMC's findings could be one of the first tasks for a newly

elected Labour government. Last night Ofgas and BG disagreed about the reasons for the delay. Ofgas said it had agreed to the MMC's request to extend the investigation after the panel had received texten sive new information" which it needed to consider. An Ofgas spokesman added: "The new material has come from the two sides, both British Gas and ourselves. It's not just us."

Minutes later, however, BG emphatically denied that it had provided the MMC with any new material. "We are not going to comment on individual areas but if there was late information provided it was not by BG," said a spokesman. When questioned about the discrepancy, Ofgas said it stood

by its earlier comments. There was no indication about the precise nature of the new material. The crucial argument is over the size of TransCo's asset base for regulation latory purposes and the scale of depreciation charges.

BG shares, which rose on the rumours last week, slipped 3p The delay suggests the report yesterday to 176p.

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crunch and voters see

their beloved NHS

being run down, and

down so government

borrowing starts to rise

again, then we will get

a tax-raising budget."

the economy tums

Whoever wins, taxes are going to have to rise

It couldn't be any plainer. As sure as eggs is eggs, whichever of the two main parties forms the next government, it would have to raise taxes or cut spending more than planned in order to keep borrowing to the "golden rule" level to which both parties have committed themselves.

That rule says the government will borrow no more than it would need to finance investment, and implies a deficit of around 1 per cent of GDP over time. With an underlying deficit of 2-2.5 per cent of GDP, this implies a fiscal tightening of £7-10bm.

What's more, as the Institute for Fiscal Studies made clear in its analysis yesterday, to meet the original sendial terrets uppeld

to meet the existing spending targets would buck the trend of 80 years of history. Government spending just does not grow that slowly in a modern economy, and the current plans are, frankly, incredible. If taxes do not rise more than planned - and

it is worth recalling that big tax increases via petrol and tobacco duties, higher air passenger duty, and a crackdown on tax evasion are already on the cards - it would mark the end of the welfare state as we know it. We will be topping up privately our pensions, healthcare, and spending on our childrens' education.

There are two conclusions the financial markets should draw from the IFS's sobering analysis. One, taxes will go up quite steeply after the election - not immediately, but at some point during the next parlia-ment. When it comes to the crunch and voters see their beloved NHS being run down,

The second conclusion is that neither party is likely to be as tough as it pretends on borrowing, and the PSBR will not fall to zero by the turn of the century. Although there will need to be some reduction in the underlying structural deficit, neither Labour nor the Conservatives would struggle to

eliminate it in practice.

None of this is the stuff of feelgood, so it is no surprise that the political parties them-selves have not been spelling out the impli-cations. But what is really odd about the election debate is how few people have cottoned on to how low UK taxes are by international standards, until the IFS pointed it out yes-terday. Although government borrowing is too high, we have plenty of scope to close the gap and fund a bit more expenditure by paying more tax. After what happened to Neil Kin-nock and John Smith at the time of the last election, nobody, apart from maybe Paddy Ashdown, is going to admit this. Almost everyone, it seems is fixated by the totem of tax cut ting - and look what a hole that's got us into.

Ladbroke's incentives are a good bet

latest case of "excess" comes from Ladbroke Group, where a long term incentive plan has caused the earnings of the chief executive, Peter George, to rocket from £481,000 in 1995 to an astonishing £1.3m last year. Approximately half of this sum comes from

the LTTP, which appears, from the little we are told about it in the annual accounts, to be based solely on the performance of Ladbroke's share price. Fortuitously for Ladbroke's executive directors, the plan was set up when Ladbroke's share price was on the ropes. That's helped Ladbroke to become the 23rd best performing share in the FTSE 100 share index

over the past three years and apparently jus-tifies this whopping great payout. Such are the delights of these Greenbury-approved LTTPs, however, that Mr George would have received something like £160,000 even if Ladbroke had underperformed the index and the company come in at number 75. Some incentive. Subject to shareholder approval, the accounts say, the remunera-tion committee has decided to introduce modifications to the scheme this year "to make the achievement of reward more

demanding". Good of them, that, but it's not clear it will make much difference. For the remunera-The annual accounts season is well and truly upon us. It is perhaps a comment on our times that they are read these days

and the economy turns down so government borrowing starts to rise again, then we will get a tax-raising budget.

more for what they tell us about the earnings of the companies they are meant to represent. The companies they are meant to represent. The rate for the job perpetually bid upwards.

A slice of the steam age disappears

A nother little slice of our industrial heritage passed away yesterday as Siemens went to Newcastle and picked up a steam turbine generating business to go with the silicon chip plant it already boasts. Now that the Germans have picked Parsons clean, this presumably leaves the rump of the company to slip qui-etly into the night when Newcastle finishes work on its two remaining Indian power station orders early next year.

When Britain had an empire and Sir Charles Parsons revolutionised naval war-fare by inventing the steam turbine, the North-east truly ruled the world as well as powering it. Sadly, times have long since moved on. Not even Rolls-Royce's illstarred attempt to wring some synergy out of making gas turbines for jumbo jets as well as power stations could save Parsons.

Last year it booked a meagre £150m of turbine sales compared with the £3bn clocked up by its new German owners. Jürgen Gehrels, chief executive of Siemens in the UK, kindly attributes this to Parsons' lack of global reach. But the truth is it could not even pick up business in its own back yard, I that came from.

the dash for gas by the UK electricity indus-try being realised largely with kit supplied from Germany.

Apart from Mr Gehrels' soft spot for New-castle – he even produced a football shirt at yesterday's press conference - it is hard to see why Siemens was so keen to snap up any of Parsons. True, it gets its hands on the juicy spares business from all those Parson's cus-tomers dotted around the Commonwealth. But it also inherits the millstone of Parson's under-utilised manufacturing facilities when capacity is something the world steam turbine industry is hardly short of.

Palatable ways to raise revenue

The Institute for Fiscal Studies has always had a particular talent for getting to and articulating the heart of the matter. Its pamphlet on Labour's windfall profits tax is no exception. The most troubling aspect of the tax", says the Institute, "is that it demon-strates the fact that in order to raise revenue, political parties increasingly seek to conjure up new taxes on targets they believe will be palatable to the electorate rather than being able to raise revenue from the existing tax structure, which would be more coher-ent economically and also more transparent". Quite so. The IFS might reasonably have added that we can expect a lot more where

Siemens takes over parts of Parsons

Michael Harrison

A thousand engineering jobs were salvaged yesterday after the German engineering giant Siemens paid Rolls-Royce £30m to take over parts of its Parsons steam turbine generation business in Newcastle. The takeover will increase

Siemens workforce in the North -east to more than 2,000, making it one of the most important employers in the area. It already has a silicon chip plant in the North-east which will start deliveries in August

But the deal will also mark the demise of Parsons - one of the most illustrious names in British industrial history, founded in 1889 by Sir Charles Parsons, the inventor of the

steam turbine. Siemens is to take on Parsons' spares business and some of its manufacturing and engineering operations employing a total of 880 people. A further 120 Parloyees are being relocated to other Rolls-Royce divisions in the North-east.

But the future of the 300 cmployees working on Parsons' two remaining power station contracts in India looks bleak.

If they are made redundant when the contracts are complete early next year then 1,100 workers will have lost their jobs since Rolls announced it was pulling out of the heavy steam turbine business last summer at a cost of £248m.

Barney McGill, works convenor at Parsons, said he was delighted at the announcement though he remained disappointed that more jobs had not been saved. He said: "This was a good day on the whole. There was a real possibility the company could have been lost forever so we're delighted it's for existing customers. been saved. The negatives are that we've lost so many jobs, but even the people who ve been the Parsons name and Parsons made redundant have said they Power Generation Systems is



Jobs salvaged: Jürgen Gehrels, Siemens chief executive (left)and Horst Münstermann of Siemens Power Generation

hope above all that Parsons

carries on." Siemens intends to use the Parsons factory to manufacture components for its main steam turbine generator factory

But it will never again manufacture steam turbines bearing

traordinary deal", explaining: "Not only is it the largest sin-

gle terrestrial transaction that Warner Bros has ever conclud-

more importantly, it is with a

broadcaster that launched less

than a week ago."

ITV has indicated that hit

films remain important in its

schedule and it will outbid new

rival channels to secure there.

"The real gamers will be the

Hollywood studios. They have

never had it so good," Mr Plan-

tin said yesterday. He added: "Competition is

intense for top quality series. Securing the Universal deal

tops up our war chest to 2000."

In November last year Chan-nel 5 joined forces with BBC1

in Mülheim, Germany and parts

being subsumed into Siemens' wasn't, that was one of its weak-existing UK power generation wasn't, that was one of its weak-nesses. I hope the name will not sales arm to form a new company, Siemens Power

Jürgen Gehrels, chief executive of Siemens in the UK, said he felt sad that one of the "pio-neers of power generation" would be no more. But he added: "We are a global player in power generation and Parsons to make them redundant but the only way to guarantee jobs is to improve competitiveness all the

disappear completely. I hope we can use it in some form."

Mr Gehrels also cautioned that there was no absolute guarantee of a job for any of the workers it was taking on, "We have not taken on 880 people

time and we have a long way to go in Newcastle."

The turnover of the business being taken over by Siemens was £60m last year compared with Parsons' total sales of £150m. In total there are 57,000 megawatts of Parsons-built turbines in operation around the

Procter & Gamble buys Tambrands

Procter & Gamble, the personal hygiene giant, has acquired Tambrands, manufacturers of Tampax tampons. P&G is to buy Tambrands for \$1.85bn (£1.15bn) or \$50 a share. Tambrands has 44 per cent of the US tampon market and its Tampax brand is marketed in 150 countries. It employs 2,600 people globally. Neither side would comment on possible lay-offs. P&G, based in Ohio. makes Oil of Ulay, Pampers nappics and Pantene shampoo.

Fortune 500 firms leap ahead

The combined profits of the Fortune 500 companies leaped 23 per cent last year while their revenues rose by 8.3 per cent. General Motors stayed number one, with annual revenues of \$168.5bn (£105.3bn). Second was Ford with \$146.99bn and third Exxon with \$119.4bn. The rankings, published annually by Fortune magazine, help explain the rise of US stocks until recent weeks. Among the firms, 305 reported increased profits last year, four-fifths of which said earnings grew faster than revenues.

Receivers in at millennium adviser

Administrative receivers were appointed at Kendell, the building services, architectural and town-planning group acting as pro-fessional adviser to the Millennium Commission Panel. Shares in Kendell were suspended on 25 March and will continue to be suspended. The company, formerly known as YRM, reported losses last year of £2.4m. It has not made a profit since 1992. It was hoping to benefit from savings after shedding its property surplus and return to profitability in May.

Smiths Industries expects upturn

Smiths Industries chairman Sir Roger Hurn yesterday forecast a strong upturn in the military and civil aircraft markets as he suggested the group would generate "real growth in earnings over the years ahead". Pre-tax profits rose from £69.5m to £84.2m in the six months to 1 February. Investment column, page 24

Rolls-Royce sales soaring in UK

Vickers said sales of Rolls-Royce cars in the first quarter to March 1997 were up 13 per cent year-on-year at 446. Sales in the UK were up 49 per cent to 236 cars. Sales in the Americas and Japan were up 2 and 7 per cent respectively. However, sales were down in the Middle East and Africa by 32 per cent, and in continental Europe by 17 per cent.

Anthea Cudworth

Contrary to the statement in yesterday's story headed "When the boss's daughter is not assured a job", we wish to make it clear that Anthea Cudworth, daughter of John Cudworth, the chairman of United Assurance Group plc, left the company in December 1996 of her own free will, not as a result of the merger between Refuge Group and United Friendly. She had already accepted a place at the Australian Graduate Business School at the University of New South Wales in Sydney to take a two-year MBA course and took this up last February. We apologise for any world.

Although Siemens is far the manufacturing facilities that larger in power generation with also said that Siemens needed the manufacturing facilities that course and took this updates.

Parsons has in the North-east.

Channel 5 pays £88m for films

Rob Brown Media Editor

Channel 5, committed to screening a feature film every night, splashed out £88m yes-terday for two years' worth of Warner Brothers' forthcoming productions - almost as much as its entire first year programming hudget.

ITV also went to the movies vesterday, beating off both C5 and the BBC to clinch a multimillion pound deal with Universal Studios, which has traditionally dealt with the

The contract - the first be-tween ITV and Universal for eight years - gives Britain's biggest commercial network the right to premiere 32 future ed in the British market, but and current releases including Twister, Dante's Peak and Jim Carrey's Liar Liar on British terrestrial television two years

In the meantime, it can screen former hits such as Back To The Future, Beethoven, Kindergarien Cop and Jaws.

MV was also in the bidding for the Warner package, but walked away after forcing up the price for its new fledgling rival, whose entry into the programme acquisition market is causing galloping inflation in

this sphere.
Channel 5's initial annual to buy 68 films from 20th Century Fox. programme budget is only tury Fox

Michael Harrison Aer Lingus, the state-owned Irish £110m, but its management in-sisted yesterday the Warner deal would not detract from do-

mestic programming. This could mean that its shareholdto overseas carriers. ets - Pearson, CLT and United News & Media - could have to inject more money into the company.

Dawn Airey, C5's director of programming, said: "This deal

government. will give 5 many of the upcoming box office hits opening in the next two years, demonstrating chairman, said yesterday that the airline's improved financial its commitment to bringing viewers Hollywood's best." situation had enhanced the prospects of finding suitable Warner Brothers' president. Jeff Schlesinger, called it "an ex-

Aer Lingus looking for overseas partners He was speaking as Aer

flag carrier, expects to have identified potential strategic alliance partners by the end of this year in a move which could see equity stakes in the airline being offered The move, which will in effect

mean the part privatisation of Aer Lingus, could result in up to 49 per cent of the airline being surrendered by the Irish Bernie Cahill, Aer Lingus's

Lingus reported an increase in pre-tax profits from £18.2m to £41.7m last year. The sharp rise was largely due to a £19m fall in interest charges and exceptional gains in 1996 compared with one-off charges the previ-

Gary McGann, Aer Lingus's chief executive, said it was unlikely that the airline would have signed alliances and given up equity stakes by the end of the

But he added: "I am confident that we will have a clear proposition to put to the government." The airline, he said. was looking at alliances in both the US and Europe. Hansen hired as football scout



Alan Hansen: Looking out

Nigel Cope City Correspondent

A City-backed investment vehicle which is seeking a stock market flotation later this month has recruited Alan Hansen, former Liverpool and Scotland international, to scout for a Premiership football club

Photograph: Nick Tapsell

150,000 megawatts of installed

capacity, sales last year of

DM8bn and new orders totalling

DM9bn, Mr Gehrels said that

Parsons' customer base would

give it access to new markets.

Despite the fact that there is

overcapacity in the heavy steam

turbine generation market, he

Hansen has been appointed as a non-executive director of Soccer Investments, a shell company backed by City institutions. It is seeking an listing on the Alternative Investment Market.

It hopes to use a £10m cash "carrot" and the promise of a flotation to lure a Premiership club into a reverse takeover.

the company has appointed a Newcastle-based broker and a Leeds-based public relations company, it is possible one target could be Middlesbrough. The Teeside club is third from bottom in the Premiership but is in the semi-finals of the FA Cup and the final of the Coca-Cola Cup.

Vinay Bedi, of the company's broker, Wise Speke, said: "Soccer Investments has given itself two years to find an attractive football club willing to enter into a reverse takeover. If such an opportunity does not appear, the group will liquidate and the backers' cash returned." The backers are believed to

Soccer Investments is in talks be blue chip City firms as well with two Premiership clubs. As as prominent footballing individuals. The directors of the acquired club would receive their stake. The £10m would be injected into the club.

There has been a flurry of football club flotations and opportunities for deals in the Premiership are diminishing rapidly. In recent weeks Mosaic Investments has taken over Bolton Wanderers and Newcastle United has taken a listing while Sheffield Wednesday is raising funds via a placing.

Soccer Investments said Alan Hansen's selection of prospective clubs would centre on player capabilities, strength of squad

Chemical industry calls to delay start of EMU

Michael Harrison

Leaders of Britain's chemicals industry vesterday called for a delay in the launch of a single European currency in 1999 but said that when economic and monetary union did proceed the UK should be in the first wave.

The call from the Chemical Industries Association came as its annual survey of investment intentions showed that up to a quarter of chemical companies would cut back on spending if Britain stayed outside EMU. Elliot Finer, director-general

of the CIA, said the chemical industry supported a single currency, believing it would save around £200m a year in transaction costs, aid completion of the single market and improve Europe's competitiveness.

But he said: "We have always believed that it is more important to get the transition right than to adhere to a predetermined timetable. Unfortunately it looks as if there has not yet been sufficient movement in the economies of prospective EMU. members to allow a single curreacy to be a success. We therefore believe that it would be in Europe's best interests to delay the start of the project until there has been the real convergence and increased flexibility a single currency will

Mr Finer conceded that a delay in the timetable could damage the political momentum behind EMU. But he argued it was more important to achieve real convergence in inflation and employment rates and out-put per head than for the EMU timetable to be driven by "political machismo".

That, he said, would do more tractive to trade with those vestment reflected worries damage to Europe's competitiveness because if countries went in when their economies were not ready there would be huge pressure for state aid

handouts to compensate. However, he said that when EMU did start, it was vital to the chemical industry that Britain was a member. If it was outside the core group of participating states. Britain would lose out on investment.

rvestment, ing last year was 23 per cent be-low its peak in the late 1980s. group would also find it less at-

who stayed outside EMU. The survey of investment intentions shows that spending is

likely to remain subdued for the fifth year running. The CIA's members are forecasting only a 5 per cent rise in investment in real terms this year to £2.3bu. long-term health of the UK In 1996 investment actually fell marginally in real terms to £2.15bn despite predictions at the start of the year that it would increase by 14 per cent. Spend-

about interest rates increasing after the election and the general sluggishness of demand in Europe, notably Germany, combined with doubts about the launch of EMU.

The survey also highlighted concerns about skills shortages. with companies complaining about a lack of good quality graduates. Chemical companies were also concerned that electricity prices and costs of complying with environmental legislation would hold back in-

The subdued outlook for in-

£372m US buy cuts Tomkins' cash pile

Tom Stevenson City Editor

Tomkins moved yesterday to silence critics of the congiomerate's growing cash pile, snap-ping up the US automotive component maker Stant in a £372m agreed deal. Stant will be integrated with last year's £700m purchase of Gates, the American car belt and hose manufacturer.

Greg Hutchings, executive chairman of Tomkins, said: Stant is an excellent acquisition for Tomkins and will complement Gates. Stant expands our product offering to the automotive equipment market and increases the range and volume of products we can distribute

Revamp

at Allders

The Inland Revenue has given

Tomkins to return its mounting cash pile to shareholders: "Cash availability has enabled this transaction to take place and demonstrates the effectiveness of our strategy of maintaining cash as a strategic asset in readiness for suitable acquisition opportunities."

Tomkins paid \$21.50 a share for Stant's Nasdaq traded shares, a 29 per cent premium to Tuesday's close of \$16.625. The bid valued Stant's equity at £249m and Tomkins is assuming a further £123m of debt.

Stant employs over 7,000 people in 20 manufacturing sites located in the US, Mexico, the UK and Australia. It is one of the world's leading manufacturers of car wind-shield

He hit back at recent calls for wipers, wiper blades, closure cans and engine thermostats. It also makes hose clamps, heaters, grease guns and tools.

Responding to worries that Tomkins was biting off another sizeable deal only months after the Gates deal was finally completed, Mr Hutchings said : "We have owned Gates for some considerable time now and we feel it is running reasonably well. We see it as a very exciting opportunity to merge the company with Gates."

He added that there was considerable scope to increase Stant's current margin of 9.4 per cent, although he stopped short of giving details on how high the return on sales could go or how long the improvement would

1.92p (1.68p)

3.9p (-)

EPS

4.6p (-3.5p)

10.5p (69.9p)

9.50 (10.10)

2.78m (1.34m) 8.26p (5.44p)

7.12m (5.61m) 2.84p (2.20p)

-1.0m (2.92m) -1.5p (3.3p)

-3.32m (-3.13m) -7p (-6.2p)

1.25m (-1.77m) 2.2p (-6.1a)

-2.08m (-0.72m) -12.3p (-4.4p) - (-)

0.69m (-2.22m) -5.21p (-14.26p) - (-)

0.43m (0.14m) 0.82p (0.33p) 0.2p (-)

1.47m (1.50m) 14.9p (15.2p) 5.1p (3.4p)

0.44m (0.97m) 0.97p (2.96p) 0.1p (0.1p)

-1.00m (0.12m) -3.46p (0.49p) - (-)

2.14m (1.91m)

-8.6m (9.7m)

12.46p (8.55p) 5.9p (5.6p)

-20,6a (22.5a) 12.8a (12.8a)

1.10 (1.10)

	Compa	ny Res
	Tumover £	Рте-tах £
Abbet Group (1)	106m (30.8m)	7.45m (1.80r
Assot Holdings (F)	98.7m (52.6m)	5.9m (19.5m)
Automotive Precision (F)	26.0m (24.1m)	5.76m (6.11a

1.98m (2.19m)

41.6m (39.8m)

3.13m (2.29m

122m (125m)

111m (90,2m)

2.35m (2.37m)

Loedoo & Metropolitae (F) 3.63m (2.58m)

Heltimedia Cort (F)

Sentry Farming (F)

Allders the all-clear to revamp the stores group's capital structure, saving the company an estimated £1.5m in special provisions, writes Jim Levi. The share consolidation is on

the basis of 15 new shares for every 19 existing shares. Last autumn Allders' directors paid out 46p a share as a special dividend totalling £50m - paying back to shareholders a substantial slice of the £160m it raised when selling its duty-free operations to Swissair.

However, plans to compensare option holders - some 650 employees hold 2.87 million options - through a capital re-construction fell foul of new rules introduced by the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke.

Aliders shares gained 5.5p

Smiths Industries is flying high Smiths Industries, under its veteran boss Sir Roger Hurn, has been one of the

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN refrigeration, will definitely stay, raising pro forma profits for the last

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

it needs to approach shareholders. Currency could shave profits by £8m this year, but Hoare Govett has upgraded its full-year forecast to £186m, putting the shares on a forward multiple of 19.

The going turns good at Ascot

Control Securities. About time too,

shareholders may say. Before yes-

conglomerate.

Wheelhouse took over as chief executive last November, should be marked by a 14p drop in the shares to 781.5p.

That reaction by the market looked a little perverse, given the good news that Smiths had to tell. Stripping out £4m of property gains, the 15 per cent rise in underlying pre-tax profits to £80.2m for the six months to 1 Febru-

quiet success stories of British manufacturing. The shares have all but

doubled over the past five years as the

group's three-legged formula based on aerospace, medical devices and indus-

trial products ranging from Vent-Axia fans to flexible hoses has borne fruit. But

it was hardly propinious that yesterday's results, the first since Keith Butler-

ary was better than some expectations. Certainly there have been hiccups in the latest period. Profits only crept ahead to £31.9m in medical systems. It seems the results would have gone backwards but for acquisitions, giving credence to those who have long argued that the business's 20 per cent plus margins are unsustainable. Certainly Mr Butler-Wheelhouse was suggesting yesterday that margins may have

plateaued for now. But Smiths' UK-based medical equipment and disposable devices operations, currently struggling against a strong pound, will not have to battle currency factors for ever. There should be no repeat either of the second-quarter sales hiatus caused by the introduction of the US Deltec operation's new Prizm pump for the automatic delivery of medicines to patients.

Even so, the real story at Smiths is in aerospace. The jump in profits from £17.2m to £22.9m caught some observers off guard yesterday. Better still, the group was clearly signalling that the current boom in civil orders from Boeing, its main customer, is likely to be matched on the military side, which represents 60 per cent of the aerospace business. Meanwhile, every day seems to bring more good news on Boeing work, already showing a rise of up to 50 per cent. That could be worth a highly profitable £50m addition to turnover by the end of the century.

Acquisitions are likely to continue to feature at Smiths, which reckons it has a war chest of up to £400m before the change to a December year-end and the impact of the acquisition, so pre-tax profits cut to £5.9m in the latest nine months are not fairly compared with the £19.5m achieved in the previous 12 months to March. However, the 3.9p a share final dividend is the first since 1991.

The confidence behind that pay-

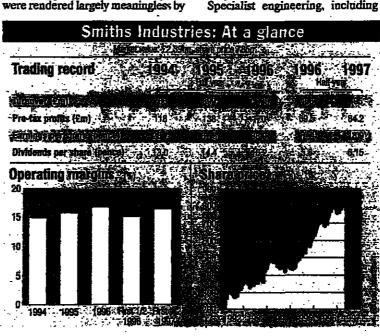
ment is supported by the reduction of the post-Suter debt from £118m to around £72.7m currently, after disposals topping £70m in the past 12 Howard Dyer, chairman of Ascot Holdings, and his management team at last seem to be getting to grips with the group once known as

months or so.

Gearing of 207 per cent is thus less than half the level of six months ago. With another 141 pubs left from the Control era and property at the US air base at Lakenheath in Suffolk which generates annual rent of £2.9m. borrowings could be below £50m by the end of this year.

terday they had seen their shares slump nearly 100p from the 387p they hit just before last summer's £287m takeover of David Abell's Suter There will also be substantial further disposals from the Suter busi-But they bounced 7.5p to 296p nesses, where it has been decided that after Ascot Holdings revealed en-couraging progress. The profit figures only two of the four divisions are to

Specialist engineering, including



in at

full year by 8 per cent to £11.3m.

Chemicals also looks a candidate, although profits were flat at £11.7m. Most of the £5.7m cost savings achieved so far have been in these two

Full-year profits of £29m for the group would put Ascot Holding's shares on a forward multiple of 11. Good value.

Dowding in an expansive mood

owding & Mills, which has been servicing electric motors since 1919 and on the stock market since 1946, is on a roll and interim figures yesterday, showing profits 27 per cent higher at £7.12m. confirmed that recent diversifications are paying dividends.

Traditionally a bellwether of the engmeering industry it serves, analysis be-lieve expansion into the goldmining areas of the US and Australia means Dowding is less constrained by the eco-nomic cycle. Recent consolidation in its traditional motor rewind business should also be beneficial.

As well as rewind, which offers few opportunities for growth, given Dowding's dominance of the home market, the company is involved in repairing permanent magnets such as those found in robots and automated plant. In Australia many automotive manufacturers send motors back to Japan for repair and there are good opportunities for a local servicer.

Elsewhere, the market for mechanical repairs is much larger than that for rewinds. With an increasing trend towards outsourcing firms will pay for competent prompt service such as Dowding can provide. Calibration. which Dowding entered in 1990, is a growing market and the trend towards outsourcing should create a steady flow of new business. On the basis of forecast profits of £14.4m in the year to June and £17.3m next time, the shares, down 1p to 80p yesterday. trade on an undemanding p/e ratio of 14 falling to 11. Good value.

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BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND NOTICE OF LOCAL INQUIRY

Supplementary Review of European Parbamentary Constituencies

NOTICE is given today. 10 April 1997, that local inquiries are to be held by the Boundary Commission for England into their provisional recommendations, made under the European Parliamentary Elections Act 1978 (as amended) for the European Parliamentary Constituencies (EPC) listed below. The Commission published their provisional recommendations on 7 November 1996. 1) For the East Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire (No.7) EPC, the inquiry will be conducted by the Assistant Commissioner, Mr Richard Sution, Barrister-at-Link, it will open on: THURSDAY 3 JULY 1997 AT 10.30AM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, CROSS STREET, BEVERLEY

2) For the Lancashire Central (No.8), Lancashire South (No.9), Merseyside West (No.12), Merseyside East and Wigam (No.13). Cheshire West and Wirral (No.14), Greater Manchester West (No.15), Greater Manchester East (No.16), Greater Manchester Central (No.17). Cheshire East (No.18) and Staffordshire West and Congleton (No.25) EPCs, the inquiry will be conducted by the Assistant Commissioner. Mr Alaric Dalziel, Barrister-at-Law, It will open on-WEDNESDAY 16 JULY 1997 AT 18.38AM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, MANCHESTER

3) For the Peak District (No.22), Nottinghamshire North and Chesterfield (No.23), Nottingham and Leicestershire North West (No.27), Leicester (No.28) and Northamptonshire and Blatty (No.36) EPCs, the inquiry will be conducted by the Assistant Commissioner. Mr James Gibbs. Barrister-at-Law. It will open out-TUESDAY 1 JULY 1997 AT 10.30AM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL HOUSE, MARKET SQUARE,

4) For the Herefordshire and Shropshire (No.31), Birmingham West (No.32), Birmingham East (No.34), Worcestershire and South Warwickshire (No.38) and Gloucestershire (No.41) EPCs, the inquiry will be conducted by the Assistant Commissione Miss Claire Andrews, Barrister-at-Law, It will open on: TUESDAY 17 JUNE 1997 AT 10.30AM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, WORCESTER

5) For the Essex North and Suffolk South (No.40), Hertforthitire (No.43) and Essex West and Hertfordshire East (No.44) EPCs, the impury will be conducted by the Assistant Commissioner, Mr William Stewart-Smith, Barrister-st-Law, It will open out-TURSDAY 24 JUNE 1997 AT 10.30AM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, CHELMSFORD b) For the Kent West (No.51), Kent East (No.52), Sussex West (No.57) and East Sussex and Kent South (No.58) EPCs, the inquiry will be conducted by the Assistant Commissioner, Mr Peter Birts QC, it will open on: inquiry will be conducted by the Assistant Commissioner, Mr Peter Birts QC. It will open on:
MONDAY 14 JULY 1997 AT 18.30AM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, TUNBREDGE WELLS

71 For the Bristol (No.46), Witshire North and Bath (No.47), Hampshire North and Oxford (No.48), Somerset and North Devon (No.53), Inchen, Test and Avon (No.54), Wight and Hampshire South (No.55), South Downs West (No.56), Cornwall and West Plymouth (No.59), Devon and East Plymouth (No.69) and Dorset and East Devon (No.61) EPCs, the inquiry will be conducted by the Assistant Commissioner, Mr George Bartlett QC. It will open one-TUESDAY 24 JUNE 1997 AT 18.98AM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, TAUNTON endations for the Brissol (No.46), Wiltshire North and Bath (No.47), Soci

Devon (No.53), Corawall and West Plymouth (No.59), Devon and East Plymouth (No.60) and Dorset and East Devon (No.61)

WEDNESDAY 2 JULY 1997 AT 16.30AM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC CENTRE, SOUTHAMPTON to discuss the provisional recommendations for the Wilestine Porth and Bath (No.47), Hampshire North and Oxford (No.48), Itchen, Test and Ason (No.54), Wight and Hampshire South (No.55), South Downs West (No.56) and Doses and East Devon (No.61) EPCs. Interested parties who wish to make representations concerning the Wiltshire North and Bath (No.47) and Dorset and Esst Devon (No.61) EPCs are advised to alread both venues.

S) For the Thames Valley (No.47), Surrey (No.50), London North West (No.62), London North (No.63), London East (No.64), London South East (No.65), London South East (No.65), London South East (No.66), London North East (No.76) and London South and South East (No.71) EPCs, the inquiry will be conducted by the Assistant Commissions of the Commissions of t by the Assistant Communicationer, Mr. Andrew Smain QC. is will open our-MONDAY 21 JULY 1997 AT 10.30AM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, HORNTON STREET,

Any interested person, whether a supporter of or objector to the Commission's proposals may attend and be heard. The Commession would urge all interested parties to attend and make their views known. It should not be assumed that each adquiry will only discuss maners raised in representations submitted within the period allowed, nor that the Commission's provisional recommendations will remain unchanged.

Representations made in respect of the remaining European Parliamentary Contribuencies did not require local inquiries to be held and the Commission decided not to use their discretion to hold any further inquiries. The provisional recommendations, copies of the representations made to the Commission (together with a summary) and a statement made by the Commission, which will be introduced formally at each inquiry, are open for public asspection at-

Inquiry No.1 - Beverley (Yorkshire) HUMBERSIDE (former aco-metros HUMBERSIDE (fectuer non-metropolitam county)
Council Offices, Anlaby House, ANLABY; Council Offices, The Hall, Languie, BEVERLEY; Town Hall, BRIDLINGTON;
Heaven House, Senion Read, BRIGG; Town Hall, HESSLE; Greenwood Avenue Library, Greenwood Avenue, HULL; Hewson House. Station Road, BRIGG: Town Hall, HESSLE; Greenwood Avenue Library, Greenwood Avenue, HULL; Guidhall, Alfred Geider Street, HULL; Pittwood House, Ashby Road, SCUNTHORPE.

Inquiry No.2 - Manchester (Northwest) COMMINIONINES, The Forum, CHRSTER; Municipal Buildings, Earle Street, CREWE; Council Offices, 4 Civic Way.

ELLESMERE PORT; Council Offices, Toft Road, KNUTSFORD; Town Hall, MACCLESFERLD; Information Centre,
1 The Arcade, NORTHWICE; Council Offices, Westfields, Middlewich Road, SANDBACE; Town Hall, Santey Street,
WARRINGTON; Oxford Branch Library, Pophar Arenne, Oxford, WARRINGTON; Municipal Buildings, Kingsway, WIDNES;
Council Offices, Wyvern House, The Drumber, WINSFORD.

GREATER MANCHESTER GREATER MANCRESTER.
Town Hall, Market Street, ALTRINCHAM; Town Hall, Bryn Street, ASHTON-IN-MAKERFIELD; Council Offices, Wellington Road, ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE; Town Hall, BOLITON; Town Hall, Kaowsley Street, BURY; Information Centre, 6 Sention Road, CHEADLE HULME; Information Office, Market Street, DENTON; Town Hall, PARNWORTH; Civic Hall, HAZEL GROVE; Information Office, Town Hall, HYDE; Town Hall, LEIGH; Town Hall, MANCHESTER; Gotton Library, Mosson Library, Mosson Lane, MANCHESTER; Withington Library, 410 Wilmslow Road, MANCHESTER; Withington Library, How Library, The Forum Centre, MANCHESTER; Control Offices, Saffer Street, ASTRING FETCH, Caster Wille, Market Street, Control Offices, Saffer Street, ASTRING FETCH, Caster Wiles Street Of Dikk & Maket Description | Library BOUGSTER/CH, (Villed Street) | MANCHESTER; Wythermane Central Linky, The Forum Centre, WAANCHESTER; Council Offices, Sadier Street, MIDDLETON; Croix Centre, West Street, OLDHAM; Prestwich Library, Longfield Centre, PRESTWICH; Chief Executive's Department, Town Hall, ROCHDALLS; Town Hall, Berley Square, SALFORD; Town Hall, STOCKPORT; Town Hall, Takbot Road, STRETFORD; Civic Centre, Chorley Road, SWINTON; Public Licray, St.Chad's, UPPERMULL; Town Hall, WESTHOUGHTON; New Town Hall, Library Street, WIGAN; Council Offices, Bridgwater Road, WORSLEY.

LAWARSHIKE.

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Information Office, Civa: Centre, BERRINGTON: Birkenhead Central Library, Borough Road, BIRKENHEAD; Town Hall,
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Library, Newnown Gardens, KIRKBY; Allerton Library, Allerton Road, Garsen, LIVERPOOL; Contact Offices, 5 Crossind!
Smort, LIVERPOOL; Notris Green, Library, Tournstand Avenue, West Derby, LIVERPOOL; Old Swan Library, Prescot
Road, Broadgreen, LIVERPOOL; Walton Library, Evered Avenue, Wakton, LIVERPOOL; Newton-Le-Willows District
Library, Crow Lanc East, NEWTON-LE-WILLOWS; Town Hall, Corporation Street, 5T. HELENS; Town Hall, Lord
Street, SOUTHPORT: Town Hall, Brighton Street, WALLASEY; Information Office, The Concourse, WEST KURBY.

GUART FURLISHIER.

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inquiry No. 3 - Nottingham (East Midlands)

DERBYSHIRE Council Offices, Sherwood Lodge, BOLSOVEE; Council Offices, Hayfield Road, CHAPEL-EN-LE-FRITH; Town Hall, CHESTERFIELD; Area Office, High Street, DRONFIELD; Town Hall, ILKESTON; Town Hall, MATLOCK; Town Hall, Market Place, RIPLEY.

LEICESTERSHIRE Parish Council Offices, Village Hall, Birstall Road, BURSTALL; Council Offices, Whitwick Road, COALVHLE; Council Offices, Argents Mead, HINCKLEY; Beaumou Leys Library, Beaumour Way, LEICESTER; St Remains Library, French Road, LEICESTER; New Walk Centre, Welford Piece, LEICESTER; Council Offices, Southfields, LOOGEBOROUGH; Council Offices, Adam and Eve Street, MARKET HARBOROUGH; Council Offices, NARBOROUGH; Ratland Councy

LINCOLNSHIRE

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NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
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Socioson Branch Library, Socioson Boulevard, NOTTINGHAM; The Guidhall, Burrou Street, NOTTINGHAM; Civic
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igh Street, COLEFORD; Council Offices, North Warehouse, The Docks, GLOUCESTER; Council Offices, Ebley Mill. vard Road, STROUD; Council Offices, Gloucester Road, TEWKESBURY. HEREFORD AND WORCESTER

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Elections Office, 150 Great Charles Street, Queensway, BIRMINGHAM; Erdington Library, Orphanage Road, Erdington, BIRMINGHAM; Harborne Library, 1221 Stratford Road, Hall Green, BIRMINGHAM; Harborne Library, High Street, Harborne, BIRMINGHAM; King's Heath Library, High Street, King's Heath, BIRMINGHAM; Northfield Library, 77 Clurch Road, Northfield, BIRMINGHAM; Perry Common Library, College Road, Perry Burr, BIRMINGHAM; South Yardley, BIRMINGHAM; Sparkhill Library, 641 Street, Gand, Sparkhill, BIRMINGHAM; Ward End, Library, 641 Street, Manney, 641 Street, Manney, College Road, Sparkhill, BIRMINGHAM; Swaron Coldfield Library, Univer Parade, SUTTON COLDFIELD; Aldridge Branch Library, Rookery Lane, Aldridge, WALSALL; Blowwich Library, Elmore Row, Bloswich, WALSALL; Council Offices, Darwall Street, WALSALL; Town Hall, WEONESBURY; Street, WALSALL; Town Hall, WEONESBURY;

Sandwell Central Library, High Street, WEST BROMWICH. Inquiry No.5 - Cheknaford (East Anglia) ESOLX
Council Offices, Causeway House, BRAINTREE; Council Offices, Ingrave Road, BRENTWOOD; Civic Centre, Duke Street,
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SUFFOLK Council Offices, Angel Hill, BURY STEDMUNDS; Council Offices, Corks Lane, HADLEIGH. nquiry No.6 - Tunbridge Wells (South East)

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CHATHAM; Civic Centre, Home Gardens, DARTFORD; Council Offices, Whiteofiffs Business Park, DOVER; Municipal Office
Preston Street, FAVERSHAM; Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, FOLKESTONE; Municipal Buikings, GILLINGHAM;
Civic Centre, Windrail Street, GRAVESEND; Council Offices, London House, 5-11 London Read, MAIDSTONE; Council CITIES CERTIFICATION OF CHART STREET CHINE, QUEEN STREET, RAMNIGATE; CIVIE CERTIF, STOOL, ROCHESTIER; CORNEL Offices, Caryle Road, SEVENOAKS; Cruncil Offices, Swale House, East Series, STTENCHOOKNE; Town Bal, TUNBERIOGE WELLS; Toubridge and Malling Borough Council Offices, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, WEST MALLING.

WEST SUSSES.
Council Office, East Pallant House, East Pallant, CHICHESTER; Town Hall, The Boolevard, CRAWLEY; Council Offices, Carls House, North Street, HORSHAM; Civic Centre, Malazavers Road, LITTLEHAMPTON; Civic Centre, Hum Road, SHOREHAM BY SEA; Council Offices, Characterbury-House, Church Street, STORRINGTON; Town Hall, Chapel Road, WORTHING. Inouity No.7 - Taxaton and Southampton (South West)

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Library, Station Road, BRISTOL; The Council House, College Green, BRISTOL: Cievedon Library, 37 Old Church Road,
CLEVEDON; Civic Cenne, High Street, KINCSWOOD; Council Offices, The Hollies, MIDSOMER NORTON;
Council Offices, Carde Street, THORNBURY; Town Hall, WRSTON-SUPER-MARE.

Council Offices, Market Street, NEWBURY.

CORNWALL Council Offices, Dolcoath Avenue, CAMBORNE; Council Offices, Luxsrowe House, LISKEARD; Council Offices, S.J.Clare, PENZANCE; Council Offices, Carrick House, Pyder Street, TRURO; Council Offices, Higher Trenunt Road, WADEBRIDGE.

Civic Centre, BARNSTAPLE; Council Offices, Riverbank House, BEDEFORD; Civic Centre, EXETER; Town Hall, IVYBREDGE; Council Offices, Forde House, Brunel Road, NEWTON ABBOT; Civic Centre, PLYMOUTH; St.Budeanx Library, Victoria Road, PLYMOUTH; Council Offices, Knowle, SIDMOUTH; Council Offices, The Great House, I St.Peter Street, TIVERTON; Town Hall, TORQUAY: Council Offices, Foliaton House, Plymouth Road, TOTNES,

Council Offices, Nordon, Salisbury Road, BLANDFORD FORUM; Central Library. The Lansdowne, BOURNEMOUTH; Town Hall, BOURNEMOUTH; Civic Offices, Bridge Street, CHRISTCHURCH; Council Offices, S8/60 High West Street, DORCHESTER; Civic Centre, POOLE; Council Offices, Westport House, WAREHAM; Municipal Offices, North Quay,

HAMPSHIRE Council Offices, Beech Hurst, Weyhill Road, ANDOVER; Civic Offices, London Road, BASINGSTOKE; Council Offices,

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County Hall, High Street, NEWPORT.

OXFUNDSHIKE.

Council Offices. The Abbey House, ABINGDON; Council Offices, Bodicote House, Bodicote, BANBURY; Town Hall,
RENLEY; Council Offices. St. Aldate's Chambers, St. Aldate's, OXFORD; Public Library, String Road, WANTAGE;

Conneil Offices. Bridgwater House, King Square, BRIDGWATER; Council Offices, Canards Grave Road, SHEPTON MALLET; Council Offices, The Dease House, Belvedere Road, TAUNTON; Area Office. Churchfield, WINCANTON; Council Offices. Brympton Way, YEOVIL.

Council Offices, The Barys, GODALMING.

WEST SUSSEX Council Offices, East Paliant House, East Paliant, CHICHESTER; Civic Centre, Maltenvers Road, LITTLEHAMPTON,

Council Offices, Monkou Park, CHIPPENHAM; Council Offices, Browfort, Bath Road, DEVIZES; Council Offices, Bourne Hill, SALESBURY; Civic Offices, Enclid Street, SWINDON; Stratton St.Margaret Parish Council Offices, Addison Creacest, Upper Stratton, SWINDON; Civic Offices, Bradley Road, TROWBRIDGE. Inquiry No.8 - Kennington (Greater London)

BERRSHINE
Council Offices, Easthampstead House, Town Square, BRACKNELL; Town Hall, St. Ives Read, MAIDENHEAD; Council
Offices, Market Street, NEWBURY; Civic Centre, READING; Town Hall, Bath Road, SLOUGH; Tilchurst Library, School
Road, TILEBURST; Council Offices, York House, Sheet Street, WINDSOR; Civic Offices, Sheet End, WOKINGHAM. HERTFORDSHIRE

Civic Offices, Estree Way, BOREHAMWOOD.

NORTH LONDON

Acton Library, High Surea, ACTON; Town Hall, BARKING; Fullwell Cross Branch Library, 1:40 High Street. BARKINGSIDE; Bestmal Green Library, Cambridge Heath Road, BETHNAL GREEN; Municipal Offices. The Ridgeway, CHINGFORD; Givic Centre, DAGENHAM; Town Hall, New Broadway, EALDNG; Newham Town Hall. EAST HAM; Edmonton Centre, 36 South Mall, EDMONTON GREEN; Crivic Centre, Silver, ENFIELD; Feltham Library, High Street, FELTHAM; Public Library, 156 Golders Green Road, GOLDERS GREEN; Town Hall, Mare Street, HACKNEY; Town Hall, King Street, HAMMERSMITH; Crivic Centre, HARROW; Hayes Area Library, Golden Crescent, HAVES; Town Hall, King Street, HAMMERSMITH; Crivic Centre, HARROW; Hayes Area Library, Golden Crescent, HAVES; Town Hall, The Burroughs, HENDON; Horncharth Library, 44 North Street, HORNCHURCH; Crivic Centre, Lampton Road, HOUNSLOW; Town Hall, High Road, LLFORD; Town Hall, Upper Street, SIZINGTON; Town Hall, Hornton-Street, KESTINGTON; Town Hall, Enston Road, KING'S CROSS; Municipal Offices, High Road, LEYTON; Northoil Library, Church Road, NORTHOLT; Paddington Office, 313 Harritor Road, PADDINGTON; Southgate Town Hall, Green Lames, PALMERS GREEN; Pizmer Library, Marsh Road, PRINNER; Crentel Offices, Mutherry Place, 5 Clove Crescent, POPLAR; Town Hall, Main Road, ROMFORD; Rudsith Area Library, Masor Farm, Bury Street, RURSLIP; Souke Nevington Library, Stoke Newington Church Street, STOKE NEWINGTON; Stratford Library, Water Lame, STRATFORD; Town Hall, Town Hall, Approach Road, TOTTENHAM; Cric Centre, 44 York Street, TWICKENHAM; Upplinster Library, 26 Corbets Tey Road, UPMINSTER; Archway Library, Hamlyn Home, Highgate Hall, UPPER HOLLOWAY; Civic Centre, High Street, UXRRIDGE; Town Hall, Forest Road, WALTHAMSTOW; One Stop Shop, Brent Town Hall, Forey Lame, WEMBLEY; The Library, Bealing Road, WEMBLEY; West Hampstred Library, Deusington Park Road, WEST HAMPSTEAD; Westminster Civi Hall, Victoria Street, WESTMINSTER; High Road, WILLESDEN; Create, High Road, WOOD GREEN. SOUTH LONDON

SOUTH LONDON

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SURREY
Civic Offices, Station Road, ADDILESTONE; Council Offices, Statey Heath House, Knoll Road, CAMBERLEY; Council Offices, Puppbrook, DORKING; Town Hall. The Parade, EPSOM; Civic Centre, High Street, ESHER; Council Offices, The Burys, GODALMING; Council Offices, Millmend, GUILDPORD; Council Offices, Station Road East, OXTED; Town Hall, Castlefield Road, RENGATE; Council Offices, Knowle Green, STAINES; Civic Offices, Gisucester Square, WONING. Issued by: The Boundary Commission for England. RG/10, 1 Drammond Gate, London, SWIV 2QQ.



market report/shares

FTSE 100 4292.3 - +23.0 FISE 250 4539.6 +20.9 FTSE 350 2116.6 +11.1 SEAD VOLUME 699.7m shares, 42,162 bargains Gilts index share price, proce

Data Bank

Drug shares offer antidote to election boredom

Bored stiff by the election and uncertain about New York the stock market seems determined to get hooked on drugs. Much of the recent action

has been among the market's disparate collection of health shares with some turning in highly volatile performances.
At first the bio-babes attracted the action. In the past few days the big players, par-ticularly SmithKline Beecham,

have captured the market's imagination. Reawakened US interest is thought to be the SB spur. The shares rose 22.5p to 915.5p in often brisk trading; they were

system, had a roller-coaster ses-sion with a 32.5p gain surren-dered into a 7.5p loss at 662.5p.

The group has replaced stockbroker Greig Middleton with UBS and should benefit from the clearance of a stock

overhang.

Apax Ventures, a venture capitalist and one of Shield's early backers, has been dripping shares into the market but now appears to have sold much of its remaining stake. Last

week it had approaching 15
million shares (7.7 per cent).

A 1.2 million deal at 640p
was almost certainly an Apax
sale although it is not clear
where the shares ended up. At
one time Apax had 10 I per

MARKET REPORT DEREK PAIN

stock market reporter of the year

Evidence its Teacher's Scotch

whisky, once the second-best

selling brand in the country,

had suffered a sobering 26

per cent sales decline left the

shares nursing a 6.5p hangover

through 4,300. Allied Domecq was a major blue chip casualty.

468.5p. Shortly afterwards chairman Kevin Leech and related interests sold 13.75 million shares for £55m. He still has more than 50 per The ML fall from grace is

even more surprising as it has occurred as the company moved into the black – an ex-ceedingly rare event for a fledgling drugs group. Its £5.45m profit should, if stock-broker Repropus Gordon has weeks they have edged away from a 280.5p low. United News & Media has 29.9 per cent of the Welsh broadcaster.

Another frisson of excitement went through the insurance broking sector as David Herro, the Chicago fund manager who achieved a sort of fleeting fame at the old Saatchi & Saatchi, lifted his Oakmark International's stake in Sedg-wick to just above 3 per cent.

Sedgwick edged forward 1.5p to 126p and Willis Cor-roon, regarded as its most likely partner, stirred 1.5p to Mr Herro achieved promi-

the sale of its Parsons operation to Siemens of Germany for £30m, gained 2p to 244p.

Antonov, developing a revolutionary gearbox, motored 13p to 116.5p and was then suspended. The company hinted a deal was near. On Olex Conroy Diamonds & Gold opened at 55p.

Thomas Jourdan, the miniconglomerate which trebled

profits to £861,000, rose 7p to 68.5p. Former Suter chief, David Abell, is involved in a shareholder revolu

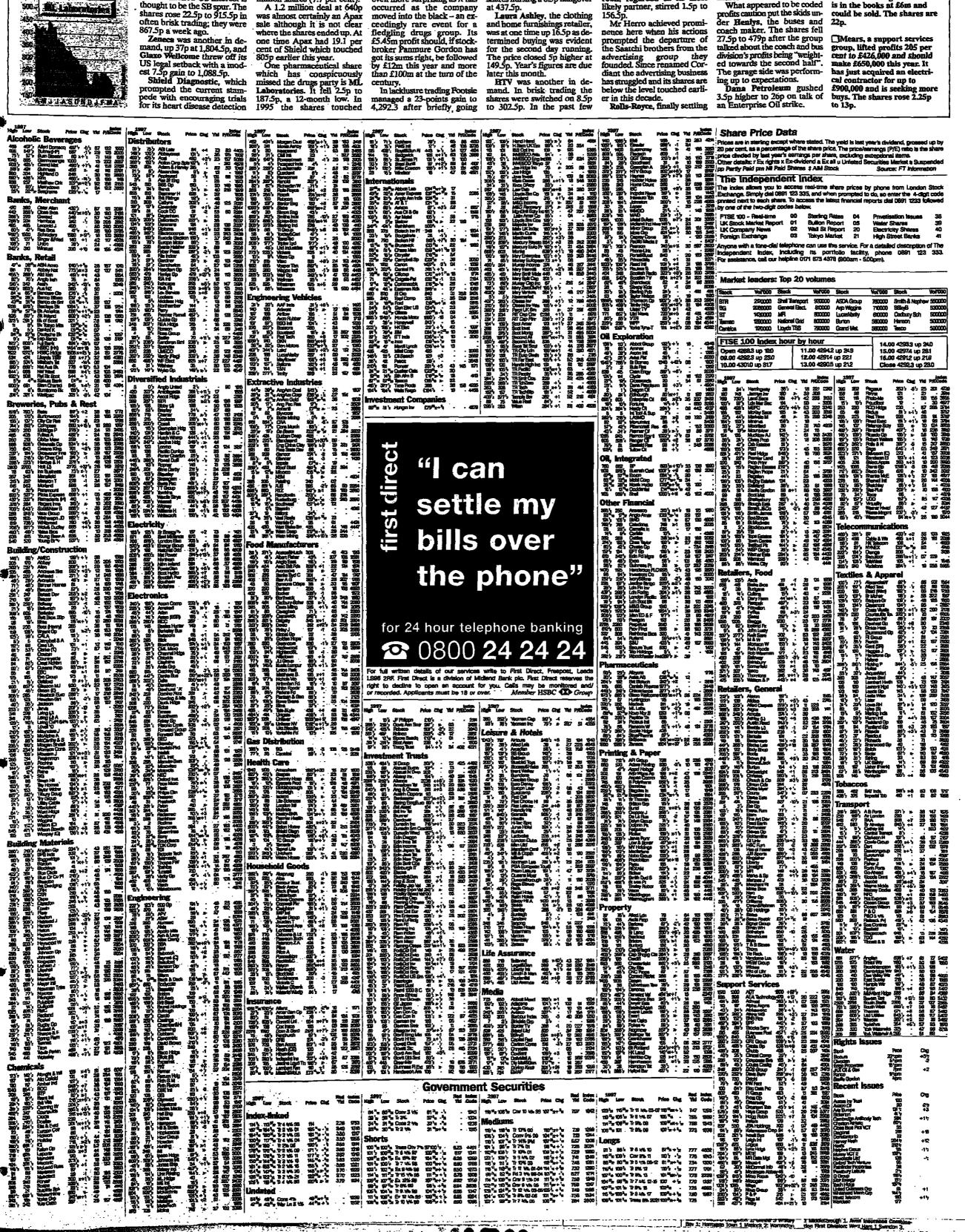
What appeared to be coded profits caution put the skids un-der Henlys, the buses and coach maker. The shares fell

Taking Stock

☐Bridgend, which lost £3.4m in 1995, should have managed a small profit last year may top £1m this year putting the shares on prospective earnings of 9.5. It has almost checked out of leisure to concentrate on distribution. For long it has had a bathroom fittings business and has acquired two car accessory distributors bringing in the Boss brand. Bridgend still owns Stocks Hotel at Birmingham which is in the books at £6m and could be sold. The shares are

Share spotlight

Banks, Merchant



Managing the economy is about moral issues too

orality is not a question that crops up very much in economics. It is not that economists are immoral people, just that they see their ex-pertise as lying in technical questions rather than value judgements.
But moral questions have been

on the frontline of economic debate this week, and with a vengeance. Figures showing how much inequality, pollution and crime have reduced economic well-being have been produced by the New Economics Foundation.

The election campaign focuses on how much Britain is booming or can boom, and politicians engage in puerile debate about how big their tax cuts will be. But the new figures reveal that taking account of all the economic changes that affect our quality of life, we have become worse and

Conventional economists have very little to say about income inequality. Like the electrician who equanty. Like the electrician who can't help you with a small plumbing problem, most members of the profession say: "It's nothing to do with me love. You'll need a sociologist for that." Or as one standard introductory economics textbook puts it: "There is no correct solution for any replace." rect solution for any problem involving value judgements."

But, laden as it is with value judgements, an assessment of in- clear consequences for economic come inequality is an essential part of the economic debate we ought to be having during this election

The New Economics Foundation's report was followed by a broadside from the Council of Churches. It criticised all parties for not stressing the problem of unemployment enough, although it also gave Labour - or at least Old Labour - plenty of ammunition by favouring a national min-imum wage and a job creation programme, and stressing the importance of workers' rights and

This Christian coalition is in no



DianeCoyle

Like the electrician who can't help you with a plumbing problem, most economists say: 'It's nothing to

do with me love. You'll need a sociologist for that'

Apart from these specific reports, there has also been a growing sense that all is not well with our booming economy. It is the sense that made Will Hutton's book, The State We're In, and no doubt his new sequel, The State to Come, a best seller, and that aroused so much interest in George Soros's recent recantation of his unqualified faith in free

In fact, gloomy predictions that unfettered global capitalism will provoke riots and disaster have become all the rage; and such a short time, too, after the definitive detems based on Marx's hypothesis above the poverty line, and mea-that capitalism contained the sures to assure full employment seeds of its own destruction.

and government provision to en-

sure equal access to health care,

Before those of a free-market

inclination condemn this list out

of hand as a crypto-socialist agen-

da, it is worth spelling out that

some of the consequences of this check-list are unexpected. For

example. Professor Haslett argues that minimum wages, labour

market regulation and most

existing welfare systems tend to cost jobs and are incompatible with his full employment requirement. He would scrap all of that traditional type of safety net. He would also exclude

unions, progressive taxation,

government ownership of capital

goods and any state planning of

the economy.

The keys in this moral frame-

work are freedom, equal access to basic necessities and the spread of

power in a democracy through the dispersion of wealth.

saying: "The critics of capitalism

see the extreme inequalities of

wealth and opportunity that it breeds, the burdens it places on

ordinary working people, and

they conclude that capitalism is

Now, Professor Haslett's specific

conclusions might differ from those

our own value systems would lead

us to. But he presents a case that engages with political and moral

the party leaders adopting such a radical package as that proposed in this book, it would help most of us feel that they were a bit more

in touch with the concerns of their

-electorate if they could admit that

there might be one or two non-

technical and even moral issues in

Hard as it is to imagine any of

immoral ... It is not capitalism per se that is immoral but current

capitalism.

philosophy.

He wraps up the book by

education and child care.

Our politicians nourish the doom-mongering by imposing such narrow terms of reference on the day-to-day political debate. They will cheerfully hurl marginal rates of taxation at each other, and even argue about setting new priorities within the public spending total, but are very edgy when it comes to moral rather than technical choices. Do they believe that higher tax revenues are needed to fund some aspect of the welfare state that we believe is an essential part of a civilised

John Major certainly stuck to his view that the managerial problem of getting the economy to grow is more important than all this moral nonsense. "There's no point in wearing your heart on your sleeve if you have nothing in the national wallet with which to help them," he said, asked to reply to this week's reports.

But in the context of most people's feeling that there is more to life than the contents of your wallet, it is illuminating to look at a book first published three years ago but newly released in paper-

Philosopher David Haslett uses the classic tools of moral philosophy to come to the rescue of capitalism. Private ownership and freedom from central economic planning are essential for freedom, and he concludes that capitalism trumps socialism on this criterion.

Yet capitalism with morality "is a form of capitalism that differs significantly from any current forms", he writes. And some of the differences he identifies would be welcomed with glad cries by Old Labour types who would be happy to describe themselves as sofalist despite the fact that it has gone so horribly out of fashion. They include worker control of

economic policy. the businesses they work for, a limit to the amount that can be in-Capitalism with Morality, DW Haslett, Oxford University Press. Paherited, an earned income credit doubt that morals have some very feat in 1989 of the economic systhat would lift almost everybody perback price £16.99.

You never know when a silent seether will snap

If you sit on a company board, there are several important ques tions you should ask yourself. Are you a "silent seether", who knows what should be said during a meeting but sits in silence, listening to other members make a

hash of things?
Or are you a "quiet floater",
saying nothing until the end and
then agreeing with the majority
view? Perhaps you're a "great debater", wasting hours on irreletant trains on "creally uncleant. vant topics, or a "really useless or dead hand", who should have re-

tired years ago. Patrick Dunne, a director at venture capital outfit 3i, has met all such types during his years visiting companies. Now he's put them down in a book published today, Running Board Meetings, which aims to show how such meetings should be run.

"I had just visited a company that was in difficulty and the board meeting was fairly awful. I decided I had to buy the chair-

man a book," says Mr. Dunne.
"Then I visited a bookshop and found there were lots of books on meetings, but none specifically on board meetings. What worries me is that, with things like the Greenbury Report, a lot of boards are concentrating solely on corporate governance issues. They're forgetting to talk about the business

As for the silent seether, Mr Dunne observes that they often threaten to resign but never do:
"They just continue to sit and seethe. Until they snap."
So there it is - watch out for

the quiet ones.

Robert Smith, president of the Institute of Chartered Accoun-tants of Scotland, is delighted to announce an operating surplus of £359,000 in the 1996 annual report published this week.
No doubt Mr Smith is consider-

ably happier in this role than in his other job as head of Morgan Grenfell Asset Management.

Just last month Deutsche Bank revealed a £430m hit on its 1996 accounts due to the Peter Young unauthorised trading scandal at its MGAM subsidiary. Mr Smith was appointed head of MGAM after the scandal to help clear

PEOPLE & BUSINESS

The silent seether



'After 34 years of marriage you thought you knew me, didn't you? Well, welcome to the real world!'

The bank still awaits a fine from Imro over the affair, which is widely expected to be over £1m. No doubt heading the Scots bean-counters is a breeze by com-

Hands up everybody who knew that Naafi had a financial services arm? And there was I thinking all it did was serve up grub and cups

of tea to the armed forces. The financial services side may have been around for only 20 years, but yesterday it was subject of a £104.2m buy-in, leaving Naafi with 32 per cent of a new venture,

Warrior Group. Warrior will henceforth provide personal loans, motor insurance and financial advice to the rank and file. HSBC Private Equity forms the other partner.

Chairman of the new company is Ian Lindsay, OBE, a non-exec utive director of Naafi. He joined Naafi three years ago after a career in retail banking with Robert Fleming. Mr Lindsay says: "I served 20 years in the RAF volunteer reserve, while Bob Jones, chief executive of Warrior, recently retired as a major in the Territorial Army. There's a great

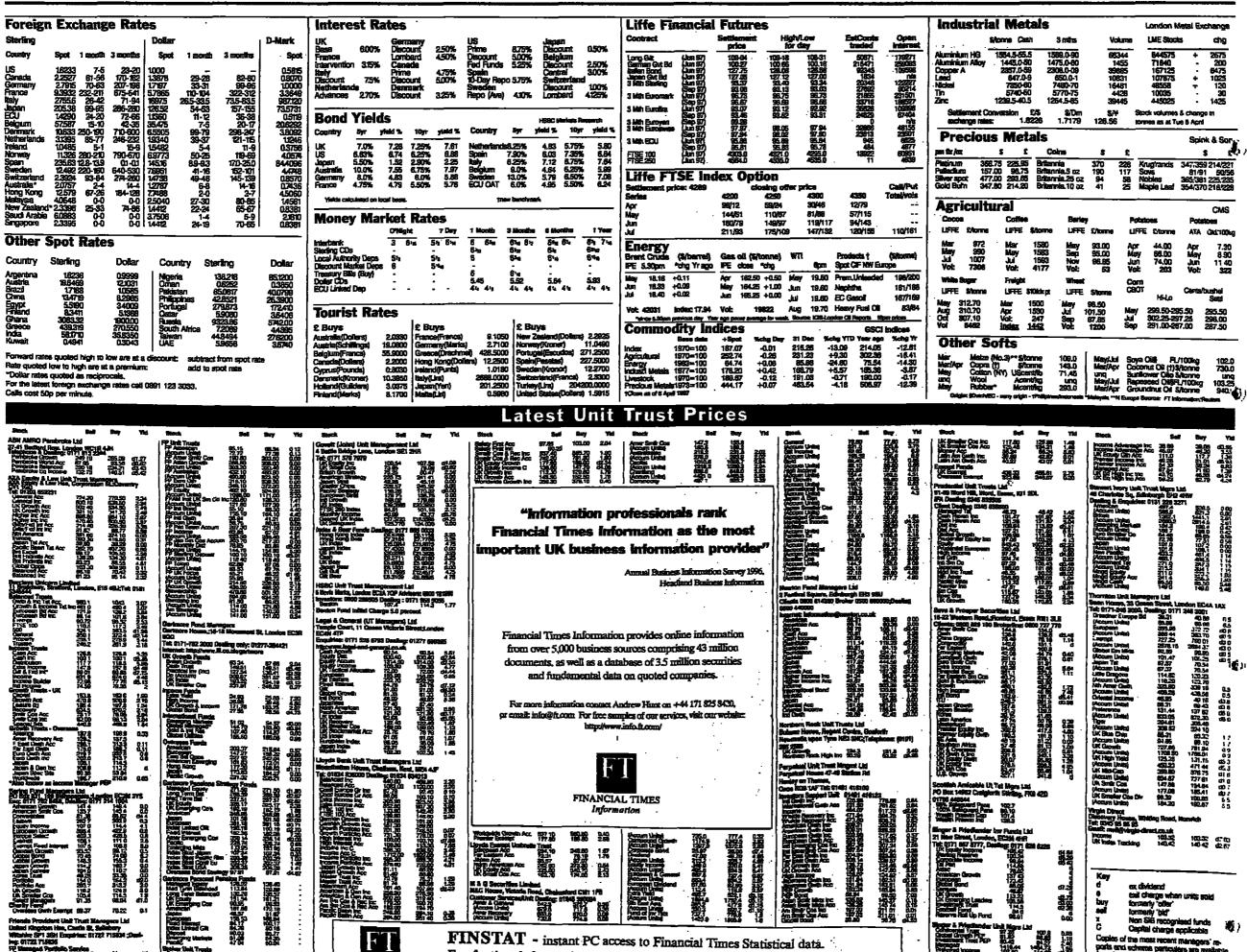
RAF/Army rivalry between us, but I think I win because I was a senior rank to him.

The forces of political correctness move at varying speeds inside Norwich Union, it appears. A colleague of mine (let us call him Roger) and his wife have a joint mortgage endowment policy with Norwich. But only Roger has received a letter from the company on the vote for its conversion from mutual to plc status.

Roger and his wife also have a household insurance policy with Norwich. They were recently sent a cheque to pay for repairs to their house. The cheque was made out to both of them but they don't have a joint bank account so Roger inquired whether it would be all right if his wife endorsed the cheque over to him. "No," Norwich replied. "You can't get your wife to endorse it because the law changed last year

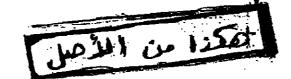
to stop fraud." Obviously the law relating to membership of mutual organisations was defined long before po-

John Willcock



For further information, call Leeanne Gilliar at FT Information

on +44 171-825-8430 or email: leeanne.gilliar@ft.com



Heads McCoy





John New

T deciared - T deci SOCIAMA, a dual course winner, has breen in good form on the Lingfield Equitities with a social time in between and can show the way home here with country and good second there is between and can show the way home here with country and good with a size of those shorted Roberts an eye-cancture booking. Mark Flower's change gained the last of those shorted Roberts an eye-cancture booking. Mark Flower's change gained the last of those without a lab penalty an February and looks good enough for this twen if he will be rectored under a lab penalty and looks good enough for this twen if he will be FORM GUIDE * THE INDEPENDENT RACING SERVICES 0891 261 LIVE COMMENTARIES PERILES 981 FOLKESTONE 982 HAMILTON

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£74,46, Tricost: £921,00, Tax: £132.90, NPs 2746, Intelligible 202,00. Intelligible 202,00. Next Epic Stand, Imperial Or Metric. Incignot: £27,215.60 – part worr. Pool of £19,165.94 carried flowers to Hamilton today. Placepot: £102.60. Quadpot: £15.50, Place 6: £227.50. Place 8: 91.78. CHEPSTOW

2.00: 1. MDRESONSH (M.A. Fitgerski) 6-4; 2. Break The Roles every for; 3. And bles 13-2, 9 ras. 2, 13. P Bower, Hawford West, Foter: 22.05: 22.00, 23.00, DP. 21.60, CSF: 23.07. Trio: £2.10. 15 ma. 4, % (S Woods, Neumakist). Total: (2.90; £1.90, £3.50, £1.70. 07: £26.80. CSF: £2.97; Tig: £3.60. NR: Metant, Wood-bock.

5.10: 1. Bill ST JAMES (D Hotard) 8-1; 2. Kingdom Emperor 9-1; 3. Chainz 14-1
11 san. 11-8 by Casties Burning (4th). Hd.

13 san. 14-8 by Casties Burning (4th). Hd.

14 san. 11-8 by Casties Burning (4th). Hd.

RACING RESULTS 3.30: 1. BLACK CHURCH (D.O'Suburi) 6-4

3.30: 2. BLACK CHERCH & O'Sulterri 6-4 for; 2. Dengar Baby 7-4; 3. Elta Governor 11-2; 4 cm. 2, dst. (R Rose, Stormgton). Tothe: £1.90. DP. £1.60. CSF: £4.30. 4.00: 1. SHEEGCY & Ryon 12-1: 2. Thesne Arene 10-11 tax; 2. Qualter Waltz 5-1. 10 csp. 1, 9, (B high-latton, Tameurth). Toth: £13.30: £2.50, £1.30. £1.20. DF. £11.40. CSF: £24.16. Tho: £14.50. NR: Bre-4,30: 1_ SOME-TOY (Mass L Stacktord) 5-1;

LUDLOW

Place 6: £54.57, Place 5: 46.80.

2.20: 1. KALZARI (Mr A Wintle) 12-1: 2. 3.20: 1. PIPER'S ROCK (A Bates) 3-1 fav.

4-1, 6 ran, Hd, S. (A Carrolli, Total £2,20;

Gray. 4.20: 1. SULAWES! (Mr.) Goldstein) 3-1: Monobaldu 2. First Crack 5-2 fav; 3. Moobakur 100-30, 6 mm. 21/-, nk. (N Twiston-Davies). Tota: £3.70; £2.40, £1.80, DF: £2.80. CSF

Irish and Scots in 'greatest' game

Cricket

Kuala Lumpur is the unlikely setting for the most crucial first colts' Classic. That puts him match in Scotland's and Ireland's history today as they play each other for the third and final place in the 1999 World Cup. Scotland's 72-run defeat

against Bangladesh in the ICC frophy yesterday set up the tie that neither side wanted. Both teams, who are staying in the same hotel in the Malaysian capital, hoped to see the other progress through the qualifying tournament, Now, only the winners will join cricket's élite in | Derren Moftest (3) 4 | C | O4050-3 TROPICAL BEACH (24) (C) (D) | Berry 4 9 7 | D Wright 6 | O4050-3 TROPICAL BEACH (24) (C) (D) | Berry 4 9 4 C Londer (7) 14 | S 222044 | BOLD STREET (146) (D) | G M Moore 7 9 3 | A Cushane 2 9 5000-64 | BE WARNED (10) (D) | M Dos 5 9 1 | G Carter 18 R 1 0 000-131 | MEEDLE MRCH (24) (D) | 1 O4061 4 9 0 | M Loriey 13 11 00000-0 RYMER'S RASCAL (24) (D) | E Aston 5 8 13 | J Fortune 1 12 010040 | MISTER WESTSOURD (154) (CD) | Ms. I Pers 1 5 8 12 | M Lorie 1 6 8 | M Lorie 1 6 9 | M Lorie 1 6 England in two years' time.

"This will be the most significant game ever for Scottish cricket, "Alex Ritchie, the general secretary of the Scottish Cricket Union, said: "But it is a great shame that we have to meet Ireland."

The Irish lost to Kenya on Monday, while Scotland's struggle to reach the final lasted two days because of rain. Bangladesh closed their 50over innings on 244 for 7 and their powerful bowling dismissed the Scots for 171.

Bangladesh's qualification. whether or not they win Saturday's final against Kenya. sparked the biggest celebrations in the country's capital, Dhaka, since independence in 1971. Crowds waving flags and chanting "victory for the Tigers" joined street parties amid firecrackers, band music and paint being hurled in all directions.

The players, meanwhile, can look forward to a car, mobile phone and life-long health care from a grateful government on their return.

RCC TROPHY (Nusia Lumpur): Semi-final: Bangadesh 243 for 7 (Khaled Mashud 70); Scotland 171 (G Williamson 39 not out; Mohammed Rafique 4-25). Bangladesh won by 72 russ.

Third win in four legs for Golding

STUART ALEXANDER

Posting his third win out of four legs. Mike Golding yesterday took Group 4 across the finish line in Cape Town to extend his overall lead in the BT Challenge and complete the 6,300 miles from Sydney in 37 days, 23 hours, five

minutes and five seconds. In second place and just 20 minutes behind was Chris Tibbs. making up for the huge disap-pointment of Concert being dismasted on the second leg from Rio de Janeiro to Wellington. Third was the man who is still second overall, Simon Walker, whose Toshiba was 4hr 6min 25sec behind Golding. He was then held up for a further hour and a half as a Russian Navv frigate was stuck in the entrance to Victoria and Alfred waterfront. Fourth was expected to be Com-mercial Union, fifth Motorola and sixth Save the Children.

An award for outstanding seamanship, only the fifth time it has been made, was yesterday given to Britain's Pete Goss by the Royal Ocean Racing Club Commodore, Terry Robinson. Goss turned back in huge seas and winds at Christmas to rescue Raphael Dinelli, a fellow competitor in the Vendée Globe singlehanded non-stop round-the-world race.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Footba**l**l 7.30 urlets stated
EUROPEAN CUP-WINNERS' CUP
SEMI-FINALS FIRST LES
Baccolore v Florentina (8.30)
Parts S-16-granular v Liberpool (7.45)
DR MARTENS LEAGUE Premier Division: Software V Service V Ser DR MARTENS LEAGUE PTEUMER LIMITENS, DO-STORY OF SUBLINY TOWN.
ICSS LEASUE Second Divisions Sprissed v Wen-bey (7.45): Dorlang v Leadistenada: Egham v Wen-URBOND LEAGUE: First Divisions Cap Fload First legs Suckholinge PS v Astron Lina.
WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: Deal v Chattern.
WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: Deal v Chattern.

FA YOUTH CUP Semi-final first leg: Crystal Palace v Blackborn (?..30) (at Selburst Parid.

Speedway SPEEDWAY STAR CUP: Ipsenth v Poole (7.30). PREMER LEAGUE KNOCK-OUT CUP: Shefield v Glasgow (7.45)

Other sports BOWLS: English Men's Championship (Mel Manager)

TODAY'S

NUMBER 110

The number of miles run a week in training by the Olympic marathon gold medallist. Josia Thugwane of South Africa, in his bid to achieve peak fitness before the London Marathon on

Tomba and Meehan on the upgrade

meeting at Newmarket due to to Newmarket, and anyone who **GREG WOOD** open next Tuesday. In France the run-in to the Guineas starts Twenty-one runners stood their

at Maisons-Laffitte tomorrow with the Prix Djebel, for colts, ground yesterday at the latest and the Prix Imprudence, for fildeclaration stage for the Whitlies, in which last year's Chevebread Gold Cup at Sandown, which to most punters will mean two things. First, there is ley Park Stakes winner, Pas De Reponse, will start her build-up to the 1,000 Guineas at Newat least one decent steeplemarketon 4 May. Criquette Head, the filly's chase to look forward to before the jumpers shuffle off to their trainer, wins the Imprudence summer quarters, but also, since which returns to Maisons-Laf-Whitbread day on 26 April features the Thresher Classic Tri-

fitte from now-defunct Evry with such regularity that most al on its undercard, that serious other trainers have long-since re-education in the merits of the decided to leave her to it. So just leading members of the threeyear-old generation can be deindeed, the start of the ma-

three rivals, Psylla, Imia and Barnata, will line up against Pas De Reponse tomorrow. lt will be a major surprise if newal may have more bearing

feels she is likely to become Mme Head's fourth winner of the fillies' Classic might do well to step into the ante-post market today at odds of around 8-1. The second trial on the card, the Djebel, was won two years

NAP: Soojama (Folkestone 3.00) NB: Nishamira (Hamilton 4.20) ago by Pennekamp, the subse-

RICHARD EDMONDSON

quent 2,000 Guineas winner, and also marked the starting-point of Zafonic's three-year-old jor Classic Trial cycle is less than Pas De Reponse does not con- on Classics elsewhere in Eu-

France's major two-year-old events last season, and the Djebel may offer a preliminary guide as to whether that dom-inance will be carried over to the he'll win." Classic generation, with two British runners travelling to take on a four-strong home team led by Alpha Plus (André Fabre) and Nombre Premier

(Alain du Royer-Dupre). Fantastic Fellow, trained by Clive Brittain, goes on trial for in good form from the first day the Poule d'Essai des Poulains (French 2,000 Guineas), while Brian Mechan's Tomba has the German equivalent on his

Meehan, a growing force in the training ranks whose Lam-bourn stable is now home to an 80-strong team, 50 of which are two-year-olds, is unequivocal

British stables cleaned up in about Tomba's chance tomor- can even reflect in positive row. "He'd be one of our better three-year-olds," the trainer said yesterday, "and he's going to France because we think Victory would certainly not

be a surprise, since Tomba improved throughout his busy seven-race campaign last sea-son, which concluded with victory in a Listed event at Evry, while Meehan's string has been of the turf season, when he saddled the juvenile Blueridge Dancer to win the Brocklesby

Stakes at Doncaster.
"It's hard going." Meehan
said, "you've always got to keep
improving, but we've consistently done okay and we're all

4.50 Turgenev (nb)

enjoying it."
So much so, in fact, that he

SAMULTON TO THE

HYPERION

2.20 Gadge 2.50 Barresbo 3.20 TROPICAL BEACH (nap) 3.50 Risky Whisky 4.20 Nishimara

punters would struggle to match, "close enough for us to be pleased." The serious money in the 2,000 Guineas market yesterday was attaching itself to the fortunes of a horse trained by an-

other of the younger generation of trainers, Peter Chapple-Hyam. Ladbrokes cut the Man-ton trainer's Revoque, the winner of two Group One juvenile events in France last season, to 9-2 from 11-2 for the

his trainer from collecting on a lucrative win-double launched the previous week by Mr Mulligan's victory in the Gold Cup. "It was," Meehan says with a philosophical air which most meeting.

mood on the length or so which separated Tumbleweed Ridge from victory in the Lincoln and Meehan: Still improving

> within striking distance at the head of the market of the Godolphin candidate Shamikh. who will not return to Britain until shortly before the Guineas

14 30311-4 RETURN OF AMEN (1A) / Bernel 3 8 10 _____D Holland 12

3.50 DUNWAN (QUALIFIER) MEDIAN AUCTION STAKES (CLASS F) £3,500 added 270 5f

— 6 declared — BETTRIC: evens Risig Whitely, 7-2 Sobery Lens, 6-1 Capitain Brady, 7-1 Anica Lady, 8-1 Filey Brigg, 20-1 bir Fund Switch

4.20 GLEN LIMITED STAKES (CLASS F) £3,300 added 1.m 4f

- 7 declared -DTRNC: 9-4 Mishamira, 7-2 State Approval, 5-1 Stated, 6-1 Sun Mark rapole, 8-1 Elembelm Terrace, 12-1 French Project

63-6051 STATE APPROVAL (12) (D) P Eccles 4 9 0

6/03672 SUN MARK 60 Mrs A Su

2,000 Guineas (Newmarket, 3 May) Lad-brokes: 3-1 Shamidh, 9-2 Revoque, 8-1 In-discreet, 12-1 Entreprentur, Putra, 14-1 Potsen, Cape Cross, 16-1 Musical Pursuit, 2aminder, 20-1 in Command, 25-1 Za-lin, 33-1 others.

a week away, with the Craven firm her reservation on the trip rope. Hall leads McCoy back to the winner's circle

The champion jockey, Tony McCoy, finally got back among the winners after Diamond Hall cruised away with the bumper at Chepstow yesterday. The Ulsterman had earlier drawn a blank on four Martin Pipetrained favourites on his first day a winner." back at the office since being kept out for three weeks as a re-

layed no longer.

sult of concussion.

2.30 Super Saint

3.00 Soojama 3.30 Hever Golf Star

"It's good to get a winner af-

FOLKESTONE

2.00 Summerville Wood

ter four beaten favourites and I would think Mr Pipe is tear-ing his hair out," a relieved Mc-Coy said. "It would have been an understatement to say I would have been really sick if I had to leave the course without

McCoy now hopes for an inin the Galphay Stakes. Gosden's jury-free run up to the end of the season to enable him to land

4.00 Mardi Gras

4.30 Bubbly 5.00 Soldier Cove

GOING: Straight course - Good to Firm (Firm in places); round course - Firm (Good

STALLAS STRUCK COURSE AND STATE AND COURSE COURSE.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low for 57 & 61, high for 71 to 125.

Regis-hand, unduluting course with a run-in of one farlong.

Course is tim W of from off A20. Westenhanger station (service from London, Charing Cross) adjours course. ADMISSION: 50 (under-16s free), CAR PARE: Free.

FRACING CHARREL.

LEADING TRAINGES WITH RUNNERS: J L Dunlop - 15 winners from 40 runners give a success rath of 37.5% gul a profit to a \$1 level stake of \$29.51. M Changes - 13 winners, 87 runners, 14.5%, \$21.85; G L Moore - 11 winners, 88 runners, 12.5%, \$21.65; S

ners, 5. tunners, 14.3%, \$2.2.55; G. R. REOUT - 1) winners, 63 tunners, 12.5%, 421.06; S. C. Williams - 7 winners, 22 numers, 21.5%, 4336.24.

LEADING JOCKEYS: G. Daffield - 18 winners, 98 rides, 18.4%, 434.79; Paul Eddery - 10 winners, 83 runners, 18.2%, 41.34; T. Quinn - 15 winners, 108 rides, 13.9%, 419.27; Dane O'Reill - 12 winners, 62 rotes, 19.7%, 533.88.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Nellie North (2.00), Jobie (2.00) (visored), Heavenly Miss.

(2381).
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.
LONG-DISTANCE EUNNERS: Bean Venture (3.30) has been sent 231 miles by B Paling
front Istendown, Nouth Glamorpan, Astral Invader (2.00) & Sangainest (7.20) sent 212
miles by M S Sanuters from Haydon, Somerset: River Scher (2.00) & Sangainest (7.20) sent 212
miles hy S Sanuters from Haydon, Somerset: State (2.00) & Sangainest (7.00) sent 171 miles
by Manyn Mende from Sharbaon, Witshire, Sir Tasker (2.00) & Aready (5.00) sent 160 miles
by J L Harris from Extra (1.00) sent 160 miles
by J L Harris from Extra (1.00) sent 160 miles
whistoni-rum-Lake, Witshire.

2.00 LEVY BOARD APPRENTICE HANDICAP (CLASS G) £2,875

52000-0 DON'T FORGET MARKE (IRE) (31) (D Separchel) Also Venderland en (Ital) 4 9 10

503500- NELLE NORTH (198) (Geoffey C Greenword) G NicCount 4 9 10 ... R Cody-Hei 33-3201 BON SECRET (RR) (44) (D) (T) Naughton 7 Naughton 5 9 10 ... Rechart Mood 600360- ED'S FOLLY (RR) (213) étate Daess'S Dow 4 9 10 ... Rechart Mood 305201 ASTRAL NAVORE (RR) (14) (D) N S Saunders M Saunders 5 9 9 A McSan 00500-0 Time FOR TEA (RR) (10) (R M Cyast C Cyarr 4 9 9 ... R Sanyor 02006-3 SCATHEBURY (15) (D) (Neel Sheddy N Borle 4 9 9 ... P Width 1 5537300 VELVET JONES (178) (Min Jessica Charles-Jones) G Charles-Jones 4 9 4 ...

BETTING: 6-1 Astral Invader, 7-1 Scatinobary, 8-1 Pherson's Joy, Bon Secret, Sir Tasker, 10-1 Mel-Be Rorth, Sustanoville Wood, 12-1 others 1996: Derpy Vale (n) 5-9-11 A Lakeman 11-2 (G). Moore) 15 fan

FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

ASTRAL INVADER sprang a 20-1 summe in a Length and a quarter for his first success and to defeat the odds on Broughtons Turmoil a length and a quarter for his first success sence 1994. Stepping down a furtoring in distance will not incommented Astral Invader and his should aspectable care of Summerville Wood, who was beaten little more than a length in that at Unicester (supported from 7-1 to 9-2) and is 60 worse in. Scettlebury, racing for the first time since December when taking minor honours against Sharp'n Smart over seven nere two weeks ago, running on at the firsth, might provide most danger though the furious shorter trip may not be in his favour. Bon Secret has had four all-weather runs the jurious shorter in time of them, most recently when just in front of sterial injudy and made the frame in time of them, most recently when just in front of sterial injudy in mashing fourth behind Greatest at Lingfield in February. However, the selection can retrieve that if he reproduces his latest running. The Belgium-tramed Vox New Way ran Saddehome to 3 neck in a field of 16 over today's time at Newcastle in October and could go close if the enough for this, his first appearance since.

Selection: ASTRAL INVADER

2.30 CHATHAM CLABNING STAKES (CLASS F) £3,300 addled 3YO 5f Penalty Value £2,277

HEAVENLY MISS scored three times in 1996, at Leichster (seller). Notthigham (nursely) the Avenue Miss scored three times in 1996, at Leichster (seller). Notthigham (nursely) and on the Lenglest Equitack (claimer). John Bridger's tilly had Levelled (who pulled too and on the Lenglest Equitack (claimer). John Bridger's tilly behalf decored at Newbury land on places and exert stirs real on 500 more favourable terms. The selection, in the firms times tamper at the Oil-econter trucks this year, finished less of 11 to Supercial in a hand-thing time at the Oil-econter trucks this year, finished less of 11 to Supercial in a hand-thing times as the Source of the Source of the Oil-is of much worker frost. Levelled, a Carlisle scorer last August, will be the better for his Oil-is of much worker frost. Levelled, a Carlisle scorer last August, will be the better for his Oil-is of much worker frost. Super Select, formerly trained by David Barron, was a far third face. The Brigaint mater Super Select, formerly trained by David Barron, was a far third face. The Brigaint mater Super Select, formerly trained by David Barron, was a far third face. The Brigaint mater super Select, formerly trained by David Barron, was a far third face. The Brigaint mater super Select, formerly trained by David Barron, was a far third face. The Brigaint mater super Select, downers with a close-top fourth to Gapsy Princips at Catherick and unplaced effort at Reducer sh, days afterwardshout he has not been out since over tends and unplaced effort at Reducer sh, days afterwardshout he has not been out since over tends and unplaced effort at Reducer sh, days afterwardshout he has not been out since over tends and unplaced effort at Reducer sh, days afterwardshout he has not been out since over tends and unplaced effort at Reducer sh, days afterwardshout he has not been out since over tends and unplaced effort at Reducer sh, days afterwardshout he has not been out since the select to the select should be the select should be the select should be the sel

3.00 GRAVESEND HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,025 added 1m 7f 92yds Penalty Value £2,888

340367 HAMBERTON (USA) (81.4) (Find Chilon) At A Parter 4 9 10.

023437 CM SHO NO (100) (AUGN TESS) 5 Dow 4 9 1.

023437 CM SHO NO (100) (AUGN TESS) 5 Dow 4 9 1.

03435 SOULMAR (REC) (42) (60) (M G Rigers) A Floret? 7 9 0.

04 LD STONECUTER (73) (D) (87) (Petrocal Partnershy) M Charmon 4 8 13.

4 Petrocal Partnershy M Charmon 4 8 11.

1 Sp. (100) (100) (A 1 Richards M Charmon 1 Petrocal Partnershy M Charmon 4 8 13.

1 Sp. (100) (100) (A 1 Richards M Charmon 1 Petrocal Partnershy M Charmon 4 8 11.

1 Sp. (100) (

: 4042 VAX NEW WAY (188) (D) (D Sepulcine) Alex Vanderheagten (Bel) 4.9 13 ,R Belebane 15 B

added 6f Penalty Value £2,115

2 531400- PHARACHTS JOY (183) (D) (Pyramid Recing Club) J Pagne 4 9 13

16 00-4500 SPECTACLE IM (28) (0) U S Scott B Peace 8 8 12......

the second successive year. "I trainer's stranglehold on the had hoped to beat Mr Pipe's total of winners, but he has gone well clear of me while I was off from three runners, although for the past three weeks." from three runners although the trainer's Fooled You later for the past three weeks." At Ripon, Bold Words grittily prevented John Gosden securing his fourth successive win

race. The win maintained Ed Dunlop's 100 per cent record finished fourth in the maiden.

3.30 GILLINGHAM LIMITED STAKES (CLASS F) £3,300 added 5f Penalty Value £2,277

FORM GUIDE

BEAU VENTURE turns out again quicky after chasing home Meranti in a 22-runner race at Nottingham on Tuesday and can go one better. Byri Palling's nine-year-old was having his first outing since December at the Midland track and, while he had no chance with the winner—he was besten four lengths—was conceding him how stone finduding the nding at lowance). Besu Venture bas a good record over the years, garning the first of his eight vistones to date when treined by Francis Lee in his juvenile days in 1990. The Beigan challenger Myeaba was betten less than a length by Lift Boy here last June on his single start lass are even longer absence to overcome, his last race being when a four-length third to Spender on England the March of last year. However, this is not the greatest of sprints and Joe Narghann's clarge, a winner on that surface on his preceding start, might prove Beau Venture's toughest his, hony's Grab Hire will certainly not fail through lack of fitness, having hed 10 races on the Lingfield Equitmack his year, whining two, the latest when unplaced to Apolio Red on the Lingfield Equitmack last Friday.

Selection: BEAU VENTURE

Lace — DADITEORIN MARTINEN STARTES (I'N ASS IN SA 2000 acided 1 po

4.00 DARTFORD MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £4,900 added 1m

BETTING: 6-4 Marti Gres, 5-2 Premier Might, 6-1 Rare Talent, 10-1 Mystical Island, 12-1 Victo

1996: Statat (b) 3 8 7 K Darley 15-8 (r t. Dunicp) 14 mm

FORM GUIDE

MARDI GRAS can put some disappointing displays beland him in a race which looks pretty poor even for a maiden. Trained by John Dunico, who has made a glood start, to the season, Mardi Gras shaped most promisingly after a slow start well when fifth of 17 to Morae in a useful Newbury residen in August, following with a close second to Home Alone when odds on over a mile at Goodwood (good to firm). Mand Gras failed when a hot fisuality as Selection on his return were with cut in the ground and he should appreciate the fast surface today. Furthermore, the first up at this tip should sur. President Magnit showed some promise as a two-year-old, finishing a three-end-a-half length unner-up behind Charlotte Conday at Selection: have and third behind Poddington at Lingfield the following month and his unplaced Chepsion effort was on soft ground which probably did not surt. Rare Tailent was easy to back when unplaced to Mithriak at Doncester on his single start, so far and must progress for the experience.

Selection: MARDI GRAS

4.30 PRIVY COUNCELLOR MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £4,900

BETTING: 11-10 Bubbly, 9-4 E Sharp, 7-1 Mestra Boy, 8-1 Wing of A Proyer, 14-1 Purple Malon, 16-

FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

BUBBLY looks another winner for the John Duniop-Pet Eddery combination, which is associated with Martil Gass. Bubbly did not do badly on his soittery juvenile attempt in finishing with behind Bereeq at Kempton in August and he was going on well at the finish after running green when fourth behind Sir Talbot at Leicester a fornight ego on his return. E Shapp tailed to be up to her talk home expectation when release the drux at Holydock last May, coming home only tith of sk to Moby Drummond at Haydock with odds of 15-8 leid on. That was E Shapp's only appearance but she might be the one to follow Bubbly home in a week contrast.

Setaction: BIRBLY

5.00 BOLLINGER CHAMPAGNE CHALLENGE SERIES HANDICAP (CLASS E) (FOR GENTLEMAN AMATEUR RIDERS) £4,025 added 1m 1f 149yds Penalty Value £3,148

200-183 CLASSY CHREF (SQ (Noth Surgie) I When 4 11 10. Mr 3 Crowley (4) 12 12 4510 Michael (SQ (S) (5) (6) Shrand J Jenkins 7 11 9 Dr K Manadah 6 250-018 ROMAN RESL (USA) (17) (5) (6 Higson 6 11 8 Mr 14 Mongan (4) 10 484532 Allustykes Schreibs (164) (7) (this Hosta is For Sale Partnership K Balley 4 11 7 ...

added 3YO 6f 189yds Penalty Value £3,869

5-4 Bilasel's (A4 flood Sweything J Dunlop 9 0
0-0 Milasel Rick (B5) P A bring 6 Lenks 9 0.
Ulliptic Malzic (Re Schopusies Permeship) J Andruss 9 0.
0-0 Wild Of A Player (B3) (Thurber Phonosphinesh) W Javes 9 0.
60 AlAsela (33) (W J de Relan) S Williams 8 9.
0-0 Alasela (33) (W J de Relan) S Williams 8 9.

1 Alagom 1998: Aericon Jame 3 8 9 A McSione 7-4 (1 H M Gosdan) 12 ran

press, Arounty, 10-1 others 1998: Scottish Bamby 8 10 10 Mr P Scott 5-1 (P R Webber) 14 ran.

LEATHERMECK (BBE) (Mis. 8 Streis) P Moontry 4 9 12
UNIVERSIT REPLY (USA) (S Adem's C Dayer 4 9 12
UNIVERSIT REPLY (USA) (S Adem's C Dayer 4 9 12
EZ2O PRESENT MISTIC (170) (D G CRUSSON) S DOW 4 9 7

48 SULERIA DANCER (117) (Ass Grany Withers) S Krugts 4 9 7

LARGEL SEEDER (USA) (6 Harwood) Mis A Periot 3 8 6

SZ5-5 MARSI (RASS (RBS) (12) (Desk Crusson's) Downlop 3 8 6

RINGE TALERT (20) (A Misza) M Charmon 3 8 6

O MISTICAL ISLAND (1003) (F Misza) M Charmon 3 8 8 1

Phon, Learel Sector, 16-1 others 1996: Stant (Id) 3 8 7 K Darley 15-8 (J L Dunicp) 14 cm

That race was won in emphatic style by the Sean Woodstrained Green Card, an entry for Handsome Ridge, owned by the the 2,000 Guineas who may not footballer David Platt, had been be seen again until the New-

GOING: Soft (Good to Soft in places).

STALLS: 5f, 6f - far side: 1m - inside; 1m4f, 1m5f - stands side.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: High for 1f and 6f.

Right-hand undulating course with pear-shaped loop.

Course is N of Lown on 87071. Hambian West station (service from Glasgow) 1m. ADMISSION: Cash 512; Grandstand and Paddock 57 (54 for OAPs, disabled & students, \$10 for couples); accompanied under-1 fis free all enclosures. CAE PAEE: Free. the jockeys' championship for sent off 1-2 to maintain the market race on 3 May. BLINKERED FIRST TIME: None.
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.
LONG-DISTANCE BUNNERS: Captain Brady (3.50) has been sen 399 miles by W G M Turner from Corton Denison, Somersel. going off a 5lb higher rating today. He acts well on a fest surface. Stonecatter went in over tumber at Unbasser in December and on the Wokenhampton all-weather in January but inished in the ruck at Southwell 16 days afterbierds. Hazabihook is fit from hurding but has is still a maiden under both codes and has to concede Sociema 10lb. Sinkin is another maiden but shoulders only 7st 13b and may prove the right one for the forecast if fit enough. She invished nine lengths clear of the third when finding No More Hassle three parts of a length too good in a two-miler here last November on her final start.

Selection: SOCIAMA

...M Fee

2.20 CALDER APPRENTICE SERIES HANDICAP (ROUND 1) (CLASS E) £4,025 added 1m

2.50 SPRINGFIELD RATING RELATED MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS F) £3,300 added 310 1m

chaosing Power, 8-1 Barresbo, 12-1 Father Eddie, 16-1 other

3.20 DAVIE COOPER MEMORIAL HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,000 added 6f

4.50 CHATELHERAULT HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,500 added 4YO plus 1m 5f

17 05-4039 PHENEST (8) Mars I Perratt 5.8.7

ENTRE LA STATE HYPERION 2.10 Charlie Parrot 2.40 Major Dundee 3.10 Cre-

don 3.40 Honey Mount 4.10 Cruise Control 4.40 Iron N Gold 5.10 Absolute Limit GOING: Good to Firm (Firm in piaces).

Left-hand hurdle course; figure-of-eight chase course. Tight eircule, not struckle for long-striding horses.

Course is Sof village at innection of A2D and A2T. Barnham station (Brighton - Portsmouth line) 2m. ADMISSION: Club 512; Junior Club (12 to 15-piac-olds) 52, under 12s free; Tattersults 88 (accompanied under-life free); Silver Ring 54. CAB FARE, Fieric area 54 pins 54 for each occupant; remainder free.

BLINESERD FIRST TIME: Yellow Dragon (4.40), Iron N Gold (4.40) (visored), Benji (5.10), Tout Caleftahn (5.10). WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None. LONG-DEPLANCE KUNNERS: Fiddlers Pibe (3.10) & Brown Robber (4.10) have been sent 175 miles by Mrs R Hendersom from Fol-

2.10 FONTWELL PARK SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,400 added 2m 6f 110yds

08F0-60 BAYLORD PRINCE (10) (CD) Mas J Ever 9 10 1 ... B 500056 ALDINICK COLONNADE (19) (C) M Usher 10 10 0.

240 KYBO MAIDEN HURDLE (CLASS F) (DIV I) £2,150 added 2m 2f 110yds 1 240-242 ALKA INTERNATIONAL CLOS Mrs P Townsier 5 11 6 ... 6-05P64 CLOCK WATCHERS (10) / Bridger 9 11 6 - 9 declared -BETTING: 4-6 Mejor Dundes, 8-1 Filishey, 7-1 Robert Samuel, 10-1 Granstows Lake, 12-1 Allos International, 14-1 Clock Watchers, 16-1 Read,

3.10 GEORGE GALE & CO HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,200 added 3m 2f 110yds 134328 CHANGE THE RESON (7) (D) Miss A Embricos 10 11 11_

5 3FP-P2R FEDDLERS PINE (22) Mrs R Hendesson 16 10 6. 035U14 PAYLOVA (26) R Rome 7 10 0 ...

un weight: 10st. True handicap weights: Pavlova 9st 13th, Lay R Off 9st Signature region and the state of the Resign of the Resign, 5-1 Creden, Particular, 7-1 Native Venture, 10-1 others

3.40 TUSCAN NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 3m 3f

BETTRIC: 4-5 Maydin Magic, 11-4 Honey Moust, 6-1 Giendine, 7-1 Kybo's Revenge, 16-1 Counter Attack 4.10 SILVER SHADOW NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,200 added 2m 3f

CSP242 MAYLIN MAGIC (12) T Case: 6 10 9....

450RFF ICAMTELYA (16) J Mulins 8 11 2 00-F65F EU. (SEE (16) Mrs P Townsley 7 10 11... RETTRIC: 5-2 Cruise Control. 3-1 Fell of Tricks, 5-1 Icantelys, 6-1 Gas-

ner John, Brown Robber, 14-1 Eli Gee, 16-1 oth 4.40 COMEDY OF ERRORS HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 2f 110yds

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II) £2,150 added 2m 2f 110yds

— 9 decired — BETINS: 5-4 Arctic Fox, 7-4 Absolute Linux, 5-1 Real Madrid, 10-1 Beg-J., 12-1 Mediator, Les Anissas, Veronica Franco, 33-1 others

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Selection: MONTONE 8 ras. Nk, 6. (E Duniop, Newsmarket). Total £10.30; £2.00, £1.10, £1.90. DF. £4.40. CSF: £12.05. 2.10: I. OUT LINE MAGIC (/ Feger) 5-2 5a; 2. Happy Days 20-1; 3. Quiz Mauter 10-1. 14 ran. %, 1%, (P Earns, Westspool). Tote: F3.20; 51.70, 55.70, 13.00. Df: 571.80. SSF: £53.42, Tro: £231.50. 571.80. SSF: £53.42, Tro: £231.50. Transit Visure 9-1: 2. Patolskin 14-1: 4. Open 4.10: 1 SUMMERSHILL SPECIAL (K Darieth 10-1; 2. Shengy 25-1; 3. Marton 6-1. 14 ran. 5-4 fay Galepino (4th), 3%, %, (0 Baster, Richmond), Tober 510-20; 52-30, 55-80, 52-70. DF: 565-00. CSF 52-37-21. Tricast: 51,960,74, Tro: £166.50. NR: Au-4.40: 1. GREEN CARD (W Ryan) 2-1 fav.

2.40: 1. PENDOLINO (3 Barthell 6-1; 2. Totally Yours 9-1; 3. Petrolsin 14-1; 4. Open Affair 14-1; 20 min. 4-1 for Watch Me Go. Hd. six-ind. (4 Brittan), Neumaristi. Total 27-40; 1.170, 22-10; 52-50, 53-50, 53-50. Total 38.60. CSF; 681.49. Tricest: 6726.30. Inc. 2. Crystol Gold 11. 1; 3. Burning Truth 3-1.
15 ras. 4, %. IS Woods, Newmahed. Total: c2.90; £1.90, £3.50, £1.70. DF: £25.60. CSF. £2.97. Tel: £33.60. NR: Malani, Wood-

3.20: 1. PPERTS ROCK (ABBES) 3-1 lar; 2. Nymin 4-1; 3. Seitis 16-1. 11 ren. 4, 6. (G. Beidrig). Tote: £3.60; £2.10, £2.40, £5.30. DF: £9.60. CSF: £13.08. Treast: £143.94. The: £43.60.

£9.61. 4.50: 1. MY NOMPHEE (Mr R Burton) 11-4, 2. Cape Cottage 9-1; 3. Fox Pointer 7-4 fax. 6 mm. Hd, 12. (O Nichole), Tote: £3.90; £1.90, £2.40. DF: £17.00. CSF: £22.30. NR.

NOMINE.

6.20: 1. PERCY BRAITHWAITE (Mr J Goldstein) 7-2; 2. Name of Our Father 2-1 gries; 3. Losicy Archer 2-1 grian; 7 ran. 31., 31., (Mass P Whate). Total: £4.70; £2.40. Sunday. 1 Sey 1; Harrogae Town 1 luarios 2 Vermoton tion Fire

983 1391 261 970 £129.85. Trio: £39.70.

sport

Last Monday's match was so inept that it introduced impartial observers to the effect of mistaking Valium for coffee sweetener

It should be pretty obvious to everyone who watches football in the Premicr League that there is a great deal of room for technical improvement. If not, take an eye test. Shop around for old videos.

This, more, or less, is what the Leeds United manager, George Graham, stated on Sky Ielevision last Monday following his team's goal-less draw with Blackburn Rovers, a match so inept that it introduced impartial observers to the effect of mistaking Valium for coffee sweetener.

Frustrated in his attempts to build on the sound defence be has put in place. Graham said that there is too much money chasing to little homegrown quality. "The problem drives you abroad, and I have been all over Europe this season." he said.

Sky's presenter, Richard Keys, and its analyst, Andy Gray, you could imagine that they were braced for a blast down the line from headquarters. After all, allowing managers to emphasise deficiencies in English football is way out of sync with the marketing philosophy laid down by Rupert Murdoch.

In Sky's manual of disinformation - and this applies equally to cover-age of boxing - there is no such thing as a thoroughly bad performance. If this is also true of the terrestrial channels (ITV is irritatingly partisan when matches involve foreign opposition) Sky carries it to ludicrous proportions. A bad game is less than a good game; a good game becomes tremendous. Simple

should be able to perform are acstandards; commonplace ball skills as proof of international equality.

Football continues to boom but there is no guarantee that the trend is permanent. The importance in Graham's remarks is, then, that they raised questions about the Premier League related to the re-cent influx of foreign players. Per-haps the most pertinent were that clubs must invest in the development of players and chairmen should be more accountable for issues like the present controversy over fixture

It is difficult to support Alex Ferguson's plea for an extension to the season but in view of Manchester



United's probable commitments where was the club's chief executive. Martin Edwards, when the Premier League conceded, ridiculously, to an Easter-free programme? Who calls the tune anyway? The Chelsea chairman, Ken Bates was

incensed by the Easter cancellation and has suggested that a breakaway by leading European clubs from their national associations is possible. This suggestion is highly improbable. Nevertheless it indicates considerable dissatisfaction in club circles.

On the blinkered basis of lost revenue an odds-on bet is that the majority of Premier League chairmen are vehemently opposed to the proposition of an 18-club Premiership, which would ease the strain on players and has been suggested by John Barnwell of the League Managers' Association.

None of the chairmen, I'm sure, agreed with João Havelange, who shortly to step down as president of the game's governing body, Fifa, when he said there is now too much

professional football. "It has become a problem," he said, "because everyone - directors, managers. coaches, players and doctors want to profit from football's

Money, on a ridiculous scale in some cases, persuades forcign players to turn out in the Fremier League. And money pouring in from Sky helps to create an inflated market, transfer fees out of all proportion to ability and unforescen difficulties in bringing young players forward.

This is what Howard Wilkinson has taken on as the Football Association's technical director, and what occupied Graham's thoughts on Monday. Without financial inout from the clubs where is the next

generation of players coming from?

This is not something that television can be expected to embrace with any enthusiasm. In their gar-den the roses are always blooming. Thunderclap trailers, marvellous matches, individual shortcomings glossed over by the mumbo jumbo of analysis and reference to vague roles in the tactical scheme of

things.

Even allowing for the threat
Blackburn are still under, last Monday's match was awful. In not making that point, stressing instead the effects of pace and congestion, Sky's employees did football a dis-service and insulted the intelligence of viewers. Seems that the truth does

61st US MASTERS: Faldo opens his title defence alongside the young pretender as the inevitable drama starts to unfold today

Woods has drive to fulfil ambition

ANDY FARRELL

reports from Augusta

Who needs Hollywood scriptwriters, anyway? Why would Augusta National throw some of their \$7m (£4.4m) annual profits in that direction when Bobby Jones's Annual Invitation Tournament throws up Oscar material year after year. Somehow, it always seems to

live up to the hype.
At the 61st US Masters, the storylines are thicker on the ground than the dogwood. Can Greg Norman return a conquering hero after his ultimate Aasters disaster a year ago? Will Nick Faldo, the English grinder who caught the Shark in '96, win back-to-back titles for the second time. Will a footsore Jose Maria Olazabal, the 1994 champion, continue his sensational comeback from an 18-month break? But, above all, how will Tiger Woods, to many Americans the boy-man who invented golf as a mass-interest sport, fare in his first Masters as a professional?

Last Friday, at the Isleworth course in Orlando where he now lives, hardly a Mickey Mouse lay-out. Woods shot a 59 in a practice round with Mark O'Meara. He was 10 under for 10 holes and failed to birdie two of the par-fives. "Actually, it was

disappointing," Woods said. Having finished 31st, his worst result of the year, at the Players' Championship, Woods spent last week practising hard. He tightened up his swing and spent hours on the putting green honing his stroke for the treacherous Augusta greens. "I'm rolling the ball better than I have at any time," he added. Woods has played Augusta

twice as an amateur without particular success when his preparation time was then taken up with college exams. "The

13.20 G Brewer, C Coody

13.29 B Casper, D Ford

13.38 T Aaron, K Green

14.05 L Mize, 'J Miller

13.56 S Hoch, S Torrance (GB)

14.23 J Sluman, M Bradley

14.41 D Hart, D Waldorf

14.50 DA Welbring, E Fiori

14.59 F Zoeller, *S Scott

14.32 S McCarron, J Leonard

15.17 D Ogm, C Rose 15.26 M Brooks, S Appleby (Aus)

15.35 J Morse, D Bergamo Jrn 15.44 B Tway, J Maggert

15.53 D Dural, J Parnevik (Swe' 16.02 C Stadler, D Frost (SA)

16.11 J Furyk, K Perry 16.20 F Couples, V Singh (Fiji)

big difference is that I am tournament tough now," he said. on Ben Crenshaw, he was 40 yards short of the green at the But many are sceptical that on a course where there has been only one first-time winner (Fuzzy Zoeller in 1979) since the first playing, that Woods has sufficient knowledge of the par-ticularities of the place to be ultimately successful.

"There is a learning curve to playing Augusta and a discipline to playing the course," said Faldo, who had six attempts before claiming his first Green Jacket. "Where to hit the ball, where not to hit the ball, how to hit the ball. You have to keep control. It's not impossible, but I think experience does well."

The thought of winning his third Masters is not a problem for Woods. "Is it realistic? I

AUGUSTA CARD				
Hole Yards	Par H	ole Yards	Par	
1 400 2 555		0 485 1 455		
3 360	4 1	2 165	<u>-</u> - 3	
4 205 5 435	Ă 1	2 485 4 405	- 4	
6 180 7 360	3 1	5 500 6 170		
8 535	5 1	7 406	. 4	
9 435.		8 405	4	
Out 3,465		otal 6	U 30 925	

think so," he said. "I don't know if anyone else does. Whether I win at my third try or my 50th try, it doesn't matter. You've got to be at a level where you feel confident in your abilities physically and, more importantly, mentally.

"I have learnt the hard way on this course. You have to be patient with your iron play and the fairways are a lot narrower than you might think. In order to get to some of the pins, you have to be on certain sides of the fairways

Woods's length off the tees is his biggest advantage and on Tuesday he drove the green at the 360-yard third. Yesterday. playing with the twice champi-TODAY'S TEE-OFF TIMES

16.29 C Pavin, L Roberts

16.47 T Kite, P Azinger

16.38 S Lyle (GB). M Calcavection

16.56 C Morrigomene (GB), D Love 17.05 B Faxon, T Tolls 17.14 S Jones, P-U Johansson (Swe)

17.23 B Crenshaw, C Rocca (tt) ... 17.32 T Watson, S Elkington (Aus)

17.41 J Nicklaus, Y Kanako (Japan)

17.50 R Floyd, R Allenby (Aus)

17.59 G Norman (Aus), P Mickelso 18.08 A Paimer, "W Bladon (GB)

18.26 G Player (SA); "T Hingarth 18.36 S Stricker, P Stankovski

18.44 N Feldo (GB), T Woods 18.53 J M Olezabal (Spl., M O'Mer 19.02 T Lehman, N Price (Zim)

19.11 | Woosnam (GB); E Els (SA)

19.29 J Huston, W Wood

19.38 F Funk, G Boros

18.17 B Langer (Ger), M McNolby (Zim)

short at the uphill 400-yard 17th. No wonder the Augusta officials are being coy about moving back the tee at the first, still rated a 400-yard hole by the scorecard, by six yards to bring the bunker on the right The greens, however, are already hard and fast, and Woods has been given no favours by the draw, which traditionally pairs the reigning US Amateur champion with the defending champion. "There's nobody out there stronger mentally. The only

play with Norman on the last Away from the high profile end of the market, there are some dangerous floaters. Ernie Els, the '94 US Open champion, and the Open champion, Tom Lehman, are two, while the last three winners on the US Tour - Phil Mickelson, Steve Elkington and Brad Faxon - do

way to beat Faldo round here

is to hit better golf shots," Col-

in Montgomerie said. "He won

last year's Masters by birdieing

the 17th on Saturday to get to

have the vital ingredient of The rest of the European challenge is a mystery. Seve Ballesteros has turned to Woods's coach, Butch Harmon in an attempt to make his first cut of the season. Ian Woosnam made a delayed arrival from Barbados after an airline computer mistake on Monday and has had treatment on his back, although Sam Torrance's wrist has recovered. Lee Westwood is as wide-eyed as a 23-year-old should be on his Masters debut,

£7,000 trip. Montgomerie's best finish in five attempts is 17th, but he says this could be the year. No, really? "I'm looking forward to competing for the first time." Europe's No 1 said. "I have not coped well so far. I've hit halfdecent shots which I hoped to get away with and didn't. You can't do that here. I have never putted better on these greens

while Warren Bladon, the

British Amateur champion, has

gone into debt to afford the

in practice. Paxon, a specialist on the reens, helped Montgomerie on Ruesday, and others regularly asked the Rhode Islander for advice. But he was surprised when Woods came to him. What was the problem? "I don't seem to hole putts until the back nine on Sundays," Woods said to Faxon's incredulity. If he is in contention on the back nine this Sunday we are going to have



Brimful of confidence: Jesper Parnevik (right) points the way to his caddie from the 10th tee in practice for the US Masters Photograph: Reuter

Hats off to Parnevik, golf's oddball

Jesper Parnevik is not the most famous member of his family in Sweden, Bo Parnevik, his father is one of his country's top comedians. If humour is in the genes, then it is not so much of the funny-haha or funny-pecu-liar variety, as funny-endearingly

On a tour of identikit golf professionals, Parnevik will stand apart as he walks the fairways of Augusta National in his first US Masters. Not only is there his trademark cap with the upturned peak, but this year he is wearing tight-fitting clothing, mostly in shades of brown designed by a Swedish firm which make him look like something

out of the 1970s. Then again, Pamevik is a man who has been known to munch the odd plateful of volcanic sand. The sand helps cleanse his system, apparently, and he once lived off it, only eating fruit in addition, for three months. "It's really expensive," he said. "I don't know why. It tastes just

A strange Swede in a funny cap can make a lasting impression on the US Masters. Andv Farrell reports from Augusta

South Palm Beach in Florida, has done include wearing batterypowered strobe light glasses to help synchronise neural firings in his brain and consulting a Russian psychic who had worked with Mikhail Gorbachev.

"I always like to find new ways to improve, not only to improve my game, but to improve per-sonally, Parnevik said. The hat thing started when he was practising in Florida before the 1992 European season and wanted to get a bit of a tan. He found his eyeline was not distracted by the peak of his cap and started to hole more putts. In his next tournament, Parnevik got into a play-off which Seve Ballesteros won at the seventh extra hole.

Parnevik has won three times on the European Tour and each time by a stretch but, typically, would like to win in a tight, dramatic finish. At the Lancôme

the last hole to win a bet with par to win by one. Later that a friend despite the fact that he

The price of sponsoring the underside of Parnevik's cap peak could have gone sky high if he had won the Open at Turn-

does not smoke.

'I always like to find ways to improve, not only my game but to improve personally'

berry in 1994. Coming to the last, infamously as it turned out, he had not looked at the leaderboard and believing he needed Itike regular dirt."

Trophy last September, in which he beat Colin Montgomerie by from Stockholm, now living in Trophy last September, in which he beat Colin Montgomerie by five shots, he lit up a cigar on Nick Price closed eagle-birdic-

summer, Parnevik made a television advertisement for a hotel chain, saying he had recently had a little difficulty with numbers before giving the relevant Parnevik first started playing regularly on the US Tour in '94

and found his strong driving and good ball-striking was an asset there. A number of high finishes at the end of last year included a fifth place at the US PGA Championship, which qualified him for his Masters debut this week. "The reason I came to America was to play in the majors regularly," Parnevik said. "I can't explain why I suddenly started getting good results. The difference between winning and finishing 30th on tour is so

Brad Faxon, for one, was impressed and tipped off the members at his local club that Pamevik was a man to watch this year. Last week, when the Swede

was runner-up to Faxon in New Orleans, it was his sixth top-five finish of the season. He is currently the third on the US money list with \$602,270 (£376,200). has the second best scoring average behind Tiger Woods and fourth best European on the world rankings. But unless he commits to playing a minimum of seven events in Europe, plus the four majors, he is not eligi-

ble to earn Ryder Cup points. Whether Ballesteros will pick him as wild card depends on others, such as Jose Maria Olazabal or Nick Faldo, qualifying automatically. As an aside, Faldo declined to let Parnevik join him and Per-Ulrik Johansson, another Swede making his stick to a two-ball here. Parnevik laughed it off, since that is his attitude this week

"I have been talking to Greg Norman and Steve Elkington and they said you just have to laugh at things this week, because when you start putting off greens it can get pretty weird here." It should suit Parnevik

lieve that a new board could re-

Windsor now the main attraction

Equestrianism

The Royal Windsor Horse Show has become Britain's premier show jumping meeting this year, with the Nations Cup among the 10 international classes to be held beneath the spectacular backdrop of Windsor Castle from 14 to 18 May, writes Genevieve Murphy.

These will be the first international jumping contests to be held for 24 years at Windsor, where the annual horse show is the biggest in the world. Costing £1m to stage, it incorporates the Harrods International Driving Grand Prix (for which 13 nations are entered) and two days of dressage and showing classes with more than 3,000 entries. The show takes over the Nations Cup from the | ed guess - and reinforce that

Popplewell punished

Little more than a week ago, Nick Popplewell was hoping for a place in the Lions party for this summer's tour of South Africa. Sadly for the Irishman he has been forced to limit his ambitions somewhat since then: far from walking all over sundry Springboks on the big stages of Newlands and Ellis Park, he will spend the foresceable future

walking on eggshells instead. The unholy fuss surrounding the perfectly delivered but all too public haymaker with which Popplewell poleaxed Scott Murray of Bedford on Saturday eathered fresh momentum yesterday when Newcastle announced their decision to fine their loose head an unspecified amount - a week's wages of around £1,000 was the educat-

rimand. Popplewell may not have made the cut for the Lions but he is available for the Geordies' crucial Courage League promotion match with

Coventry this weekend. All of which left Bedford distinctly underwhelmed. "The punishment would hardly appear to fit the crime, especially as the punch could have endangered not only a young man's sight but also his whole future in the game," said the Second Division promotion can-didates in an official statement. It is disappointing that there does not appear to have been any expression of remorse from Newcastle. The incident has

fore, worthy of a suspension." Popplewell was given a yel-low card by Steve Lander, the referee, for punching Murray and cannot now be subjected to any disciplinary action by the

been condemned by many as a

sending off offence and, there-

A remorseful Patrick Rafter apologised yesterday for play-ing a Davis Cup match for Australia last weekend while he was

Australian newspapers said on Monday that Rafter, the world No 43, and Mark Philippoussis went to a night-club in Adelaide on Saturday to celebrate taking a 3-0 winning lead over the Czech Republic in their Davis Cup World Group quarter-final.

Rafter admitted that he was still feeling the effects of drink during his reverse singles match on Sunday. "I'm glad you brought that up," said Rafter, when asked about the incident after his 2-6; 7-6, 6-4 win over his compatriot and Davis Cup team-mate Mark Woodforde in the first round of the Hong Kong Open yesterday.

Rafter apology for being drunk for what has happened - it is to-tally my fault. I think the one regret I do have is giving children the wrong impression of using alcohol to win matches or be a

good athlete. You just cannot do "It was a rare occasion for me to go out and celebrate like that," added Rafter whose two singles victories against the Czechs helped Australia to a

5-0 win and a place in the semifinals against the United States. One of his opponents in Sep-tember's semi-finals could be Michael Chang, the top seed here, who sailed into the second round of this tournament with a 6-0, 6-1 win over wild card entrant Melvin Tong of Hong

Chang did not feature in the Americans' quarter-final win over the Netherlands at the weekend but said he was open to approaches for the semi-final

seed, Conchita Martinez, both of Spain, won their secondround matches at the Bausch & Lomb Championships at Amelia Island on Tuesday.

Sanchez Vicario, twice winner of the tournament, rallied to beat Argentina's Florencia Labat 3-6, 6-2, 6-3. Martinez, the 1995 winner, disposed of the South African Joannette Kruger, 6-3 6-1.

The third-seeded American Monica Seles, who reached the finals of her last two tournaments, withdrew from the event, suffering from a fever of 103 degrees and bronchitis Seles lost to the world No 1, Martina Hingis of Switzerland, in both the Lipton Championships and Family Circle Cup

Seles was replaced in the draw by a lucky loser. Diaz Oliva of Argentina, who will now approaches for the semi-final face former teenage prodigy
The second seed, Arantxa Jennifer Capriati of the Unit-

Wigan chief defiant, The dissident shareholders be-Rugby League

DAVE HADFIELD

The Wigan chairman, Jack Robinson, has denied suggestions that he will stand down at

tonight's shareholders' meeting. Up to now, I've no intention of resigning as chairman," said Robinson, who will face hostile questioning from a dissident group of shareholders strongly opposed to the sale of Central Park for a supermarket development

That is something that can't be changed," he said of the sale, the proceeds of which Wigan hope to invest in a new ground. "But I hope when we tell people all the facts they will feel more positive about the future." Robinson still faces a possible threat to his chairmanship

nege on the agreement with Tesco or, failing that, join with Wigan Athletic and Orrell rughy union club at a new site in the town. "We have never ruled out joining forces with anyone in the town," Robinson said. "But it wasn't possible to stay at Central Park and upgrade it. I could have agreed with the plan to make Wigan secondclass citizens, sharing Central Park with Wigan Athletic. After the two years I have had. I would have welcomed the quiet life, but I knew it wasn't the right thing for the club."

Wigan are trying to accelerate the signing from Widnes of the prop forward Lee Hansen who is due to join them at the end of June. They have anandoned hopes of recruiting the if disgruntled shareholders go Australian Test forward, Paul ahead with their threat to try to Sironen, because he has failed vote him and his fellow-director, to gain a release from his con-

المكذا من الأصل

Liverpool to concentrate on cutting out carelessness

Ah, Paris in the spring... though hitherto not seriously but the question for challenged by a side as proficient the European Cup-Winners' Cup is whether there is some spring in Liverpool, Tonight in the Parc des Princes overlooked by the foul and comes either confirmation of inconsistency or inspiration.

Liverpool's 2-1 defeat at Sunday illustrated again their capacity for carelessness, a foible that can cost so dearly in Europe fore David James did his stuff Sunday illustrated again their ca-

England's chances in as Paris St-Germain. Maddeningly for them, it followed their splendid 2-1 victory at Arsenal when their superiority was all but

"I really couldn't spot any weaknesses at all," said the PSG home by Coventry City last general manager, Joel Bats, de-

once more. "They have so many aces up their sleeve," Bats added of the other side of their character. English hopes rest on the latter being the dominant Liverpool trait tonight.

"Our heads are back up," insists the Liverpool manager, Roy Evans, and indeed they should be confident enough. given PSG's season of some turmoil. Though holders of the trophy, they were comfortably

Evans seeks European wins home and away. Ian Ridley reports from Paris

Cup, conceding six goals at George Weah, David Ginola home. For the four previous and Youri Djorkaeff bestrode years, PSG had always met their match in the semi-final in Europe, losing on the away-goals rule, as Arsenal will recall in 1994, "If that's on their minds, all well and good," Evans said. Neither are PSG the team they were a few years ago when

the Parc. Much will rest on Patrice Loko, scorer of a hattrick in the quarter-final against AEK Athens, with their Brazilian striker Leonardo likely to play only with an injection to kill the pain of a groin strain.

Bruno N'Gotty are doubts with contain-and-counter gar back and thigh injuries respectively, while Bernard Lama will play with the probability of suspension for cannabis use banging over him.

In addition, in Steve McManaman, Robbie Fowler et al, the patient passers of Liverpool possess a range of players always likely to grab the crucial away goal - more important now than ever, it seems, with more

tack is therefore likely to be Liverpool's best form of defence. We must try and win both

legs." Evans said. "It is not like it used to be in Europe any more. withdrawing Kenny Dalglish Every team is capable of scoring an away goal." He will recall Mark Wright, suspended last Sunday, to replace the ineligible Bjorn Tore Kvarme in defence. Further forward, Patrik Berger could consign Stan Collymore to the bench once more.

propriate in a 4-5-1 formation. That, at least, contains echoes of the way it used to be in Europe, with Liverpool often into the midfield behind lan Rush for away legs. They will hope for another Liverpool installed themselves in the same hotel in Versailles they used before the European Cup final of 1981, when they

Hodgson rues late concession

the final of the Uefa Cup until Nigeria's Victor Ikpeba's brilliant away goal took the shine off their 3-1 first-leg semi-final win over Monaco at the San Siro

Inter were 3-0 up after 40 minutes thanks to two goals by Maurizio Ganz and one from Chile's Ivan Zamorano and seemed well on course to cruise into the final.

That seemed even more likely when the Monaco defender Gilles Grimandi was sent off at ity to turn defence into counterthe start of the second half for attack. a punch. However, in the 71st minute, substitute Ikpeba conjured up a precious away goal with a superb long-range shot with almost his first touch of the

"I'm happy enough about the result but I'm more concerned about that late goal which puts our qualification at Roy Hodgson, said. "Now we Barthez.

a penalty and being reduced to

nine men in an exciting Uefa

Cup semi-final first leg match on

but lost their way when Angel

Vivar Dorado was sent off ear-

ly in the second half. They then

survived a penalty miss after

goalkeeper Marcelo Ojeda was

dismissed 15 minutes from time.

The Spaniards controlled the

opening phase and were re-

warded quickly when Juanele

Castaño broke down the right

and was brought down in the area by the Schalke captain,

Olaf Thon. Felipe Minambres

the wrong way from the spot.

Jokanovic feeling the effects of

and Antonio Pinilla took con-

trol as the Germans struggled

With midfielder Slavisa

The Spanish side went ahead

Tenerife's nine men

hold on for victory

Tenerife hung on to a 1-0 win Pinilla and Juanele broke free

over Schalke despite conceding together but got tangled up and

effort.

by Thon.

sent goalkeeper Jens Lehmann off for elbowing Radoslav Latal.

a knee injury. Juanele, Felipe stitute goalkeeper. Bengt An-

Midway through the first half the penalty wide.

Internazionale had one foot in have to avoid losing 2-0 in Monaco." the Blackburn-bound Hodeson added.

Jean Tigana, the Monaco coach, fuelled Hodgson's fears. "In the return leg, it will be a different Monaco," he pledged.

Certainly, in the first half, Monaco looked a pale shadow of the side that had won all of its previous away ties in this season's Uefa Cup competition. The runaway French League leaders could not come to terms with Inter's aggression and abil-

As early as the 10th minute. England's Paul Ince put Zamorano free but the Chilean dragged his shot wide.

In the 14th minute, the Inter defender Salvatore Fresi was unlucky not to give his side the lead when he saw his header from the six-yard box cannon back off the body of the risk," Inter's English coach, Monaco goalkeeper Fabien

wasted a clear chance.

Shortly afterwards it was

Schalke's turn to fall victims to a misunderstanding as Ingo

Anderbrügge saw his follow up

ter Ojeda had parried his initial

ly after the break, but it was

Tenerife's Felipe who came

closest to scoring in the early

stages of the half, curling wide

a shot after the Spaniards re-

gained the ball after a mistake

second half the game changed

radically when Dorado was sent

However, 10 minutes into the

Ojeda's last-ditch challenge

then earned him a red card and

his place was taken by the sub-

dersson. The Swede earned a

reprieve when the Dutch de-

fender, Johan de Kock, blasted

The Germans started strong-

Thirteen minutes later, Ganz repeated the feat from the other side of the penalty area, although this time the provider was the inspirational French playmaker Youri Djorkaeff. It took Ganz's tally in this season's

Uefa Cup to eight.

Within three minutes, Ganz

had made amends. Released on

the left by a defence-splitting

pass from Zamorano, Ganz

raced into the penalty area to

beat Barthez with a fierce right-

As Monaco pushed forward they exposed themselves to another counter-attack and this time Ganz turned provider, laying on an inch-perfect cross that left Zamorano with a simple tap-in.

Soon reduced to 10 men Monaco looked down and out but in the 71st minute Ikpeba gave his side a lifeline.

There appeared no apparent danger when the Nigerian, an Olympic gold medallist, picked the ball up on the right wing, but he cut inside and unleashed a shot into the top corner that gave Gianluca Pagliuca no

The goal fed fresh life into Monaco's tiring legs and in the dying minutes they came close to adding a second, giving warning that this tie is not over yet. internazionale: Paglauca; Pistone, Paganin, Resi, Bergomi, Ince, Slozza (Winter, 78), Zanst-n, Djorkaeff, Ganz, Zernorano.

Raul's salary soars at Real

Real Madrid's Raul has signed to stay at the club for another five years with a contract that makes him the best-paid player in the world. The 19-year-old forward will now reportedly earn £1.25m per season. If another club wants to buy the Spanish international, they will

have to pay £25 6m to Real. "It's a good contract," Raul, who received other offers, said. "There are some things more important than money. Maybe I lost money continuing with Real, but I wanted to stay because i became a player and a



Mike Tyson, in Las Vegas yesterday, shows the damage next to his eye that led to his fight with Evander Holyfield being delayed Photograph: Reuter

Hamed fight on despite Tyson blow

Boxing

Naseem Hamed and Robin Reid will still make their world title defences as planned despite the postponement of the Tyson-Holyfield rematch on the same

Frank Warren said yesterday that his promotion at Manchester's Nynex Arena on 3 May, featuring Hamed against Billy Hardy in defence of his World Boxing Organisation and International Boxing Pederation June. Indeed, the Tyson delay featherweight crowns and Reid's World Boxing Council super-

recury wharton, will run as planned, despite the fact that it was originally tied in to television coverage Mike Tyson's £32m attempt to regain the World Boxing Association heavyweight from Evander Holyfield at the MGM Grand Garden in Las Vegas. That fight was due to follow Sky's coverage

of the Manchester promotion. There were fears for the British bill when Tyson cut an eye in training and his fight was put back, probably until 28 caused problems in another vital area of the world heavy-

American promoter, Don King. for their WBC title match to take place in London on 5 July, but that arrangement was scrapped after the news of Tyson's injury came through.

A financial package of about £1.73m was approved by King for a fight on the eve of the Wimbledon men's singles final, when the technology and commentary personnel of Lewis's Lewis-Akinwande fight could go American cable network, Home ahead on the rescheduled Holy-Box Office, would be covering field-Tyson promotion.

a deal with Henry Akinwande's inwande is open to purse offers again, in Las Vegas on 13 April. That is the fifth different deadline for the purse offer.

King will be favourite to submit the highest offer and, although Mexico City and New York have been mentioned as possible venues should his financial deal beat the one tabled by the Lewis promoters, it would seem feasible that the

other champion in the family.

It's due next Tuesday."
Unbeaten Starie, 22, thanked
the "body plan" of his manag-

er, Gordon Holmes, who ex-

plained: "Storey kept his hands

up, but that left a gap around his midrift. So I told David to

to fight at this moment, but I'm just following the instructions of the doctor. It's not a healththreatening illness or anything. I'll just wait," he said yesterday.

"My theory in life is to destroy or be destroyed and I'm looking forward to destroying.
I'm going to fight Holyfield this time as if I knocked him out the first time. I hate making excuses for anything, I don't take it too personally, though it just happened, that's all. If Holyfield beats me this time, he will beat

Gritt backs legal campaign

against the Football Associa-

Gritt, whose side are five Third Division, insists the Seagulls feel an "injustice" has been done and that is why they have issued instructions to solicitors to start proceedings.

Brighton were docked points back over the last month we

after a peaceful protest by fans in the game against Lincoln on 1 October when play was held up for 15 minutes in the first half. carned those points and to find

The Brighton & Hove Albion them suddenly taken away for the mood among the players is manager. Steve Gritt, has added something that had absolutely his support to the club's decision nothing to do with them we felt to mount a legal challenge was harsh at the time. That is against the Football Associa-tion's deduction of two points. why we are going through this final phase. We still feel there

was an injustice done." points adrift at the bottom of the . Gritt believes the issue of Brighton's deducted points is playing a part in their desper-ate fight for survival. "It is frustrating," he added.
"If we had had those two points

> would have actually got off the bottom of the League. "We've been so close so many times over the last month

Gritt said: "The players had also without taking it on that one step to move up a place. But

very good and they genuinely believe they do have a chance

of escaping the drop." Brighton have argued to the FA that it is the team that have been penalised for the points deduction when the peaceful pitch invasion was aimed at the club's directors and feel a fine would be more appropriate.

Liz Costa, of Brighton's of-ficial supporters' club. raised doubts whether there was enough time for the legal challenge: "The club could be in a position where it is relegated pending an appeal against an appeal, and I don't know if the FA will allow this to happen."

Woodhall considers link with Warren Richie Woodhall, the former understanding he would be in beaten by Keith Holmes while said tearfully: "Now we want an-European and Commonwealth middleweight champion, is March and he hasn't contacted

considering joining his fellow Midlands fighter, Robert Mc-"If there is better money on Cracken, and severing his links offer from Frank Warren I will with the promoter Mickey Duff. go there. I know he is very in-McCracken, now in possesterested and it is just a case of sion of the Commonwealth tiwait and see. I hope to have my tle formerly held by Woodhall. future arrangements sorted out revealed last week he was linkwithin the next fortnight." ing up with Frank Warren. Woodhall, whose contract with

Duff, who refused to comment on Woodhall's remarks. Duff expired in February, is conalso recently lost another of his better known fighters when the British super-middleweight "I haven't spoken to Mickey Duff and if he doesn't ring me shortly I will contact Frank Warren," Woodhall said. "I Woodhall has been out of acgave Mickey first refusal on the tion since last October when

Barria Corless, the former England in-ternational, is Nottingham's new director of rugby. He fills the post which has been

vacant since Roger Whittaker's depar-ture at the start of the season.

zar Jo.

EUROPPEAN WOMEN'S CHAMPHONSKIP Quar-tor-Break England 35 Notherlands 3. Semil-8-nat: England 15 France 10. Pinak England 24 Scotland 8. Final postblows: 1. England; 2 Scot-land; 3 Scent; 4 France; 5 Notherlands; 6 Italy;

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touch with me. That was on 18 challenging for the American's World Boxing Council mid-dleweight title. He needed surgery on his elbow only days before the fight and had a second operation following the contest. Since then, Woodhall

has declared his intention to step up to super-middleweight. David Starie, whose wife Louise is expecting their first child next week, enjoyed an earlier celebration on Tuesday night when he won the vacant British super-middleweight title by stopping Sam Storey in the seventh round at York Hall, Bethnal Green.

go for the body and it paid off. The right took all the steam out of old fox Storey."

Storey, 33, who has had two spells as champion, said: "I tried to rough him up, but it dida't work. He's such a strong boy and so cool."

Starie's vociferous fans had added backing from Ipswich Town's football team, with

whom he trains. The Inswich midfielder Simon Milton said: boxing night. David is a friend to the lads and we won't miss him again.'

Starie's comprehensive defeat of the veteran Ulsterman sets up a return bout with Dean Francis, the No 1 challenger. "1 beat him as an amateur and I'll

beat him again," Starie said. His punch rate in only his 14th professional contest told its own story. He threw 310 punches to Storey's 177 and landed 59 per cent to 27 per cent. The referee, John Keane, had Starie ahead by five rounds to one

Athletics

Attrictics
SOUTH AFRICAN GRAND PRIX SERIES (Cope from, Tressoph; Winners and estactant; Merr. 100m; 1 Fredericts (Nam: 10-2754c. 200m; 1 Fredericts (Nam: 10-0754c. 200m; 1 Fredericts (Nam: 10-0754c. 200m; 1 Fredericts (Nam: 11-0754c. 200m; 1 Fredericts (Nam: 10-0754c. 200m; 1 Fredericts (Nam: 10-0754c. 200m; 1 Frederict (Nam: 10-0754c. 200m; 2 Baseball

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Anabelin 10 NY Yaniwas 912 inn); Celdans 7 Boston 12; Scottle 14 Géve-land 9, Postooned: Toutino at Chicago White Sos. A Prosponent forms at unago wine Son.
NATIONAL LEASUE: Rondo 5 Charago Cubs 3:
National 1 Houston 2: St Cous 2 Montreel 1; los
Angeles 3 NY Mets 5: Sen Dego 0 Pataburgi
2: San Francisco 1 Philodelphia 2.

Basketball

With Lorento 100 Washington 94; New Jersen 93; Del-32 Marril 94; New York 73 Clevetand 93; Del-les 67 Portland 82; Minesaluces 82 Orlando 97; New Amorric 96 Denier 99; Physica 115 Min-Sea 107; Gelden State 85 La Listen 109; LA Oppes 117 Houston 127; Sacrametto 109 Ven-foure 107.

BOWNS

ALL ENGLAND MEN'S INDOOR CHAMPIALL ENGLAND MEN'S INDOOR CHAMPIONSSIP (MELION MONERAY): Peine first
remit; Carle Durber (R Francis, G Shadwell
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remit; Carle Durber (R Francis, G Shadwell
less (Best Barines) (D Fr. N Brancis best
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Monten, I Bestlemin 25J.3 Sweeten Best Extract
R Wooden, I Bestlemin (R Jewesh M Pelannich
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P Habiday) by Whitelengets IM and R Newment 24.18; Cammodges ID and J Devel by Advertey 19 Burdlay and P Wardh 18.12; Eugman IS Stevens and I Bondt by Grantham IM Puling and D Auckland; 12.24; British Celophane; IM Horsman and R Bategioni by Northampion IR Faulkner and D Masterial 18.7. Handly Closes IA Springel and G George Ib; Faicon IA Squires and J Mongani 20-18; Perticeral IIM Alburs and A Burbridge; by Cypters IB Volcers and Gormon 19.16; Dolmigon IK and T Boushed; by Tootingham ID Robitson and S Morley; 17.16; Triples Semi-finals (Timesday); Bentham by South Forms; 17.16; Angsthorpe by Desborough 21.16.

PROFESSIONAL PROMOTION (Bedfund Green, Tuesday): 8-rd super-feetherweight: J Juuro (Ug) or R Mingalaev (Un) rf 2nd. 4-rd mid-dieweight: Acacht (Romtord) by A Ewen (Ip-anch) rsf 4th.

The indian opener Ajay Jadeja came with-in four runs of his maiden Test century as the fourth Test between the West In-dies and India in St. John's, Ambgra, end-ed in a draw on Tuesday, Jadeja was run out for 96 as India finished on 212 for 2 in reply to West Indies' 333. The first three days were washed out. The West

Indies lead the five-match series 1-0 with the final Test in Guyana this month. John Snow, the former England fast bowler, is to stand for election on the new club committee at Sussex. The 55-year-old, who appeared in 49 Tests and played for the county for 16 years until 1977, is one of 10 candidates for six vacant posts. POURTH TEST (St. John's, Antigon); Blatch dalant. West Index 333 for 9 dec (8 C Laro 103), R I C Holder 59), Irona 212 for 2 (A D Jadeja 96, V V S Lawman 56).

CRE-DAY INTERNATIONAL Goldonardure, Treadpyl: Australia 258 for 7 (50 overs; M Di

Verudo 89; South Africa 250 for 8 (50 overs). Australia won by eight ruse. ICC TROPHY (Ruste Lumpur) Semi-finat: Bangladesh bent Scotland by 72 ruse. Bangladesh 243 for 7 (50 overs), Scotland Scotland 171 (44.5 overs, GW SHARIAH (CIP (Sharjab, Lietz: Pakistan beet Zielbabwe by 32 rare. Polistan 151 to 9. Zim-tebus 119 (40.1 overs). (Pakistan qualify for final). Cycling

GHENT-HAVELGEM RACE (200km) Landing placings 1. P Gearmont (Fr. Carlet, Air. ASratu. 2. A Ternst (Mar. Latte; 3. I Carlet, (Be). 17M; 4. S Outcraios (Mar. Poto; 5. A Ferngaro (II). Poto; 5. A Ferngaro (II). Rostorius. 6. H Vogets Mans (GAN; 7.5 O'Grey) (N.2) GAN. 5. F Gudn's 105 Signer, 9. J Musessur (Bell Mopei GB; 10 G Calcatens (In Sacos, all seme time.

FOGULANT
Scotland's World Cup qualifying match
in Sweden will be shown live by BBC Scotland on Wednesday, 30 April. BBC Scotland also hope to show live the final away
the in Belanus on Sunday, 8 June.
REALOCK_COLA World Top 10: 1 Brook 2 Gormany; 3 France; 4 Scan; 5 Dermark; 6 Cech
Republe; 7 Inth; 8 Commer. 9 Republe; 10
Netherlands, British biles; 14 England; 24 Scotland; 41 Republe of lealing; 63 Northern Inland; 81 Wides.

REQUIRE STANDARD PROCESSED Fedura change: The City, 51 Wises.

FA CARLING PRENGERSHIP Fidure charge: The SMay: Bushom v Middlesbrough from 16 Amil.

NATIONWING FOOTBALL LEADLE Picture change: Fit 25 April: Poremouth v Ipsaich from

ice hockey NML: Proburgh 3 Boston 1; Temps Bay 2 New Jersey 2 not): Calgary 2 Debrut 3 lot).

SPORTING DIGEST Motor racing Auto Trader have extended their spon-sorship of the British Touring Car Cham-pionship to the year 2000 after agreeing a new three-year deal with organisers TOCA Ltd. It will take the magazine's in-

templating the same move.

volvement in the series to eight years. ZETTERS Treble chance: 24pts £14,338.20. 23 £57.85. 22 £5.00. 21 £0.70. Four draws £8.00. Eight houses £26.20. Four aways £14.00. Lindly numbers 11 10 37 2 27 8.

BRITTENS Treble channer: 22pts £251.40, 22 £2.15, 21, £0.50 (three disciplings only). Four draws £24.25, £1ght homes £11.3.35. Rive aways £19.35. aways 11939. VERNORS Trable charace: 24pts £23,645 15, 23 1208.40, 22 £29.30. Super shots £199.00. Presider 10 (cad on 8 corect) £313.00. LITTLEWOODS Treble chance: 24pts 558,865,10, 23 £400.45, 22 £26.35, 21 £6,55, Four drawn £4.45, Ten homes £553.00 Five aways £65,60.

Rugby League The Bradford prop, Brian McDermott, will today appeal against his three-match suspension for punching in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup sem-final against Leeds. McDermott, has already served one match of his ban, but hopes to have the rest lifted in time for him to play at Missa tenegraphic lifts. Wigan tomorrow right.

diekt: Tries Hanger 2, Berton, West Weston 2; Drop Scholield, (3,484). Rugby Union Sammy Southern has returned as temporary chalman of rugby at Ornell following the resignation of Peter

Romanians sack coach

Louise, who was at ringside,

Athletics

The Romanian federation, the FRA, has sacked Eugen Raducanescu as its national team trainer because of repeated positive drug tests involving his athletes, the federation's president said yesterday. "Raducanescu was sacked from the technical staff of Ro-

peated proven doping charges against his athletes," the FRA president, Iolanda Balas, said. "Four of his athletes, all of them still junior, have been or are still banned from national and international competition." Altogether 11 leading Romanian athletes have been banned in the past four years,

HONG HONG MEN'S OPEN First round: T Woodbridge (Aus) bit S Massache (Joson) 6-1 6-4; D Propost (agent by 1 Eagle Aus) 6-2 6-2 1 Tearning (US) bit A Charleson (Putt 3-6 7-6 6-0; J Graph (US) bit A Charleson (Putt 3-6 7-6 6-0; J Graph (US) bit A Drace (US) 3-5 6-3 7-5; D Sapptord (US) bit D Prach (US) 6-7 6-6-0; D MacPine (US) is C Chang (US) 6-9 6-1; C Ameris (Gen) it A Olimosoy (Puts) 7-6 6-6-9; PRoble (Puts) bit M Woodbride (Aus) 2-8 7-8 6-4; G Rhoug (Rr) bit D Nestor (Cal) 7-67 4-5; States (Carl bit D South (12 Rep) 6-4-6-0; M Chang (US) bit M Tong (Hr) 6-0-6-1; J Jahannson (Swe) bit S States (Fr) 4-6-6-2 6-4; N Godwn (SA) bit M Damm (Cz Rep) 6-4-6-3. ESTORIL MEN'S OPEN First rounds G Scheller (Aut) bit Y Redenikov (Pal) 6-2 6-3. M Pippini (Jung) bit J A Vince (So) 3-6 7-6 6-1. Second rounds: C Moya (Sp) bit R Fromberg (Aus) 6-2 6-3. M Spring (So) bit R Gourne (Jan) 6-9 6-1; B Schultz-Mo-Carty; (Petri) of it A Gens (12 Rep) 6-1 6-1; E Lideotsova (Rus) bit T Whittinger Jones (US) 2-6 6-4 6-1; M Northole (Sp) bit E Genfard (Swe) 2-6 6-4 7-6; 7-3; A Pussi (Fr) bit L Nelson (Lud) 6-3 6-2; Res (Lud) 6-3 6-2; Res (Lud) 6-3 6-2; Res (Lud) 6-3 6-3; La Publish (Lud) 6-3 6-4; La Publish (Lud) 6-4; La means.

Yesterday

Tuesday

Tuesday

Uefa Can somi-finals first legt Internationals 3 (Garr 15, 28, Zamorano 39) Monston 1 (Rigoths 72): (Formitie 1) (Felice pan 5) Schista O, Netometic Feotball Longon First Deletion: Oxform Athleto 2 (Richardson pan 12), Red St. Stroman Athleto 2 (Richardson pan 12), Red St. Stroman City 2 (Futner 1.7, Galenger 30). Second Divident: Pastol Rouges 1. Sature 60 Millional C: Bury 2 (Jepton 34, Battersby 74) Websall 1 (Light-baume 73); Chesterfact O Sociopon C: Westfam 1; Committy 48) Rotheston O: Sociopon C: Westfam 1; Committed 14) Scantinope 1; (Jones 79); Cantheston III (Campal) 44) Scantinope 1; (Jones 79); Cantheston III (Campal) 44) Scantinope 1; (Jones 79); Cantheston III (Campal) 44) Scantinope 1; (Jones 79); Cantheston III (Campal) 45; Cantheston III (Campal) 46; Cantheston III (Campal) 47; Cantheston III (Campal) 47; Cantheston III (Campal) 48; Cantheston III (Campal) 49; Cantheston III (Camp mania's national team for re-

among them the long-distance. runner Iulia Negura. Balas added: "We want to clean up doping by all possible

when the end came. FOOTBALL RESULTS

WORLD CUP African zone Group Three (Ha-rare, Zimbahwe): Zaire 2 (Sunda 29, Bazam-ba SO) Zambe 2 Of Maldoir 21, Tembo 81). AVON INSURANCE CONSENATION First Dis-nion: Bournamouth O Swaraes O: Enghton 5 Cared O: Millwell O Tottenham 1. League Curc Wembladon 2 Oxford Utd 1 (at Plough Lane):

1 Great Herwood 1. Workergton 3 Curzon Astron O: Worksop 1 Bradford Park Avenue 2. Dr Martiess League Premiler Division: Cardyndig-Card 2 Numberton 2: Cremby 1 Meethyr Tydfil 0: Gravesend & Northfeet O Burton 1: Suchury Town 2 Agribro 2. Middlend Divisions: Biston 1. Moor Green 5; Resilon 1 Peges 1: Rothwell 3 Granthern O: Sucton Coddiedd 1 Dudley 4, Southern Divi-cians 5; Resilon 1-7 Reg. 10 Seable Minister 2: Lon-Line 1 Seable 1 Seable 1 Seable 1 Seable 2: Lon-



61st US Masters

Andy Farrell on the battle for the Green Jacket, page 28

sport

Loko and plain madness lan Ridley looks forward to Liverpool's Paris match, page 29



Barcelona in £20m move for Shearer

Football

CATHERINE RILEY

No sooner has he returned to action following his third groin operation in 10 months than Alan Shearer is once again linked with a move to the Continent.

to prise the England striker away from Newcastle. The Spanish side see the £15m world-record signing as the ideal replacement for Ronaldo, who is reported to be moving to Italy before the start of next season.

Newcastle know any move to sell Shearer would be greeted with outrage by the Toon Army.

Advantage for **Fiorentina**

A Barcelona squad that is arguably the strongest in Europe will be stretched to the limits for tonight's first leg of their European Cup-Winners Cup semi-final against Italy's Fiorentina, Barcelona will be without six players, four of them first choices.

Barcelona warmed up for the game by thrashing Sporting Gijon 4-0 over the weekend and were boosted by the news that both their main rivals for second place in the Spanish League and the leaders, Real Madrid, were held to draws.

But seven points still separate Barcelona from their arch-rivals and their coach Bobby Robson knows that his main chance of serving out the second year of his contract lies in taking a Eu-

ropean title. Barcelona won the Cup-Winners Cup in 1979, 1982 and 1989 but Fiorentina are far from overawed. Their Argentinian striker Gabriel Batistuta said: "Tve never felt inferior to anyone. Sure, the Catalan side has 22 great players and lots of international experience but the real

Fiorentina can beat any side." The Fiorentina coach, Claudio Ranieri, believes it would be a major tactical error for his side to concentrate all their attention on Barcelona's Brazilian striker. Ronaldo.

That would be equivalent to allowing a free hand to all the the overlapping defender Serother nine players, all equally gi and the utility man Luis En- knowledged in some way." useful." he said.

No 3269. Thursday 10 April

Fiorentina, who were un-

lucky in a 0-0 draw with In-

ternazionale on Saturday, are

ninth in Serie A, 17 points behind

reflects the extent to which the

Florence club have based their

whole season on their European

campaign. They will be handi-

capped by the absence of two

first-choice players. The former

Everton winger Andrei Kan-

chelskis is cup-tied while the for-

mer Arsenal midfielder Stefan

nothing away about his plans, he may be tempted to play a cau-

tious 4-5-1 formation to com-

pensate for the loss of Schwarz's

covering work and the extra width added by Kanchelskis.

ca, Anselmo Robbiati and the

Brazilian Luis Oliveira could all

line up in midfield alongside Rui

Costa, leaving Batistuta on his

marked in defence by Lorenzo

Amoruso and in midfield by

Cois. Robson will be without the

key midfielders Ivan de la Peña

and Josep Guardiola, both of

tend to supply the ideas, while

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

Guardiola and De la Peña

whom are suspended.

As for Ronaldo, he may be

own up front.

Sandro Cois, Emiliano Bigi-

Although Ranieri was giving

Schwarz is suspended.

That lowly league standing

the league leaders, Juventus.

James's Park. Meanwhile, Newcastle did confirm yesterday that they would send a side to compete in a quadrangular tournament at Lansdowne Road in July. Celtic and the Dutch club. PSV Eindhoven, will also send sides to the event on 15 and 16 July, which will also involve the League of Ireland champions.

the season through injury.

Scotland and Wales are to meet for the first time since the World Cup qualifier synonymous with the death of Jock Stein 12 years ago. The game will be played at Rugby Park, Kil-marnock, on Tuesday 27 May.

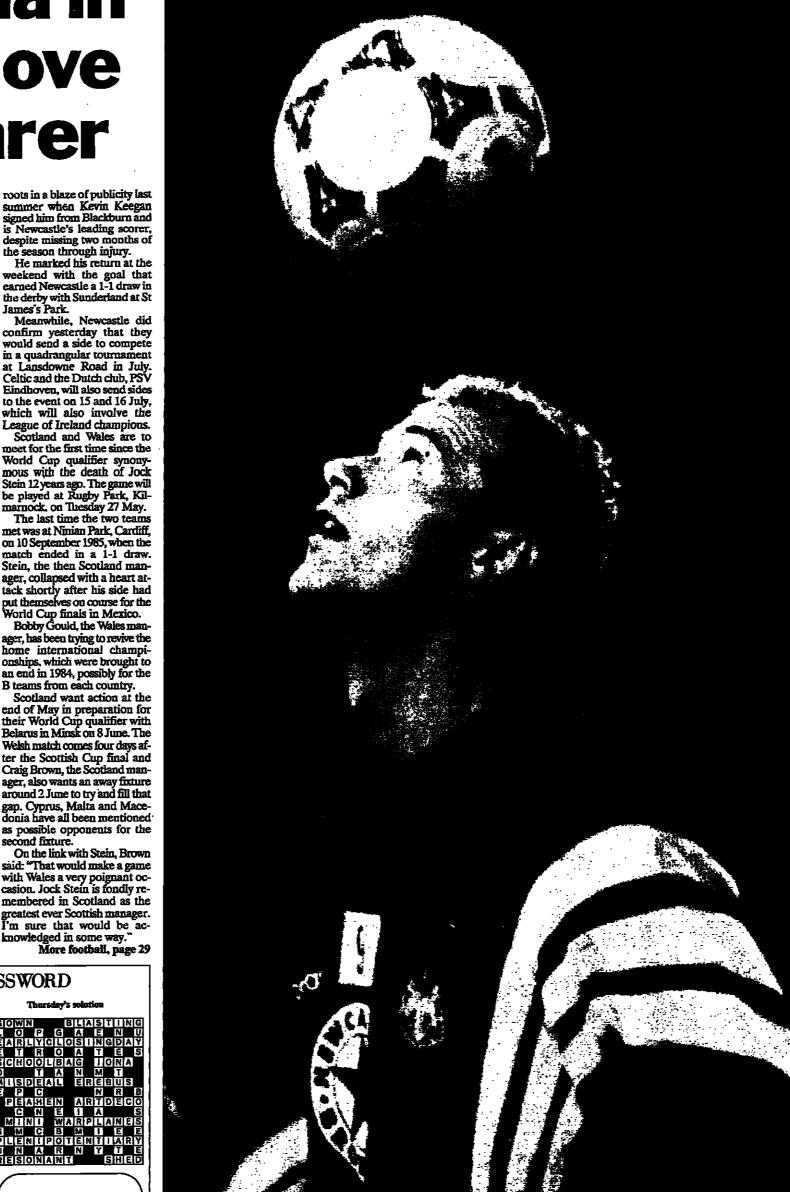
The last time the two teams met was at Ninian Park, Cardiff. on 10 September 1985, when the match ended in a 1-1 draw. Stein, the then Scotland manager, collapsed with a heart attack shortly after his side had put themselves on course for the World Cup finals in Mexico.

Bobby Gould, the Wales manager, has been trying to revive the home international championships, which were brought to an end in 1984, possibly for the B teams from each country.

Scotland want action at the end of May in preparation for their World Cup qualifier with Belarus in Minsk on 8 June. The Welsh match comes four days after the Scottish Cup final and Craig Brown, the Scotland manager, also wants an away fixture around 2 June to try and fill that gap. Cyprus, Malta and Macedonia have all been mentioned as possible opponents for the second fixture.

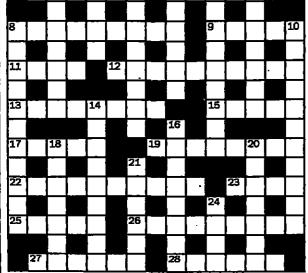
On the link with Stein, Brown said: "That would make a game with Wales a very poignant ocinjuries have put paid to the two casion. Jock Stein is fondly re-Barcelona men best known for membered in Scotland as the their commitment and pace - greatest ever Scottish manager. I'm sure that would be ac-

More football, page 29



Heading abroad? Barcelona are believed to see Alan Shearer as the ideal replacement for Ronaldo

Promoted Fulham go for title



ACROSS Moaned, without energy, and packed up (6) Call from brook, ahead

Weapon, one with bosslike features? (6-3) 9 Filled ship (commercial)

gets piloted out (5) 11 Waterway for routine day out (4) 12 Pan scraper? (5-5)

13 Primitive pubs, I see (8) 15 They help when eating 17 Cash added to US sweep

19 Consignment in hold, needing a convoy (8)
22 Magic cape, it's said, cape secreted by gypsy (10)
23 Deposit, mass of snow (4)

25 Girl's troubled, rejected (5) 26 Old Fellow in crowd, or

another academic (9) 27 Parent's stifled right chat-

Labour crowd (6) Snake, fine specimen (7) Remove base from box, say (4) Sudden, a convulsion af-

ter drink (8) French/British college (6) Money clinches the (7)
French support for priest 20 Has confidence in rail-Money clinches the

7 Expert in bold handwriting (3,4) 8 Frivolous riband bride's

sporting (4-7)

terbox (6) 28 Whip calling in last of 10 Cap for King Edward (on a shoot) concealed by ris-

ing grass (11)
14 NASA tutor briefed him? (9) 16 Need match outside in darkness? (8) 18 Shield King after collapse

roads (5,2) 21 Insolvent Union covered by report (6) 24 Erosion caused by English

be grasped and savoured and to let London know that Fulham is there by the river and it is a club with a big beating heart."

Fulham and Wigan were look-ing forward to life in the Sec-

ond Division next season after

both teams secured promotion

on Monday night.
The Fulham chairman, Jim-

my Hill, insisted the west Lon-

don side, who drew 0-0 at

Mansfield, would use their last

four games to try to clinch the top spot. "I know from experi-

ence that you only get a medal

if you win the championship, so

if the lads want a medal to take

bon's goal just before the in-terval for a 1-0 win at home to

Colchester for their own celebrations, and they overtake

Fulham at the top by a point, having played a game more. Now the Wigan chairman, Dave Whelan, has promised £2m for team strengthening and is counting on his manager John Deehan to steer Wigan

to more success next year. . . . "We have been in the wilderness for far too long. The sup-porters appreciate what I'm trying to do for the club and they

bome to their wives and mums then they have got to win the championship," Hill said. "But it's a moment of joy to can have £2m to get his squad strengthened. We are really Wigan beld on to Pat McGib-

serious about getting to the First only three of their last 16 games, Division and then the Premier now have five games left to es-

League." cape relegation. The draw was no good to Birmingham either, what we have worked for and now we can go all out for the Third Division title in our last

three games."

Carlisle missed an opportunity to guarantee their promotion as they slipped to a surprising 2-1 defeat at Darlington, but they remain 10 points clear of Swansea and their return to the division they left. return to the division they left

last season seems a formality. In the First Division, Oldham drew 2-2 with Birmingham but the point was not enough to take them out of the bottom three. Oldham, who have won

English Premier model for Scots

Chairmen from the 10 Bell' Premier Division clubs met in Edinburgh yesterday for talks which could ultimately lead to a Premiership modelled on the English Premier League.

A plan to change the current four divisions of 10 teams for a 16-team top flight, originally put forward by Clydebank's Jack Steedman three months ago, is now certain to fail.

Already the Rangers chair-man, David Murray, and his Celtic counterpart, Fergus Mc-Cann, are considering change and how the big clubs can command more television revenue. They are understood to want to create a Scottish version of the English Premiership and affiliated to the SFA. The remaining clubs would

stay under the Scottish League umbrella. Any change could take at least 18 months to put Murray's Carnegie Sports

International company yesterday issued a statement, headed "Scottish Football Initiative - The Way Forward".

It stated: "The Premier Division clubs have decided to

take forward a major initiative within Scottish football and will meet on a regular basis to discuss the initiative's progress. "[They] have engaged independent professional advisers and a further statement will be

issued after the next meet-Today, the Scottish League Management Committee will meet in Glasgow and will con-firm the end of the 16-12-12 proposal put forward by Steed-

It was due to go to a vote by all chubs at the Scottish League annual general meeting at the end of May but will now not even reach that stage.
The Dundee United man-

ager, Tommy McLean, and his Kilmarnock counterpart, Bobbie Williamson, have both criticised the arrangements for their Tennents Scottish Cup semi-final, which they believe are responsible for fans staying away. The tie will be played at Easter Road in Edinburgh next Monday and shown live on satellite television, with doir factors contributing to the modest ticket sales so far.

McLean has also criticised the state of Hibernian's pitch and both clubs had wanted the semi-final staged at one of the Old Firm grounds in Glasgow.

The Tannadice manager is unhappy with the way the SFA has promoted one of the showpiece matches of the season, and said: "I feel the tie is being devalued. We have sold only around 4,500 tickets and there is a bit of a rebellion, as people feel the fans are not be-

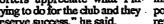
ing considered.
"We have mouned to the SFA on behalf of our supporters and this is a protest by them. as the tie is going to a venue to cater for television and not to Ibrox or Parkhead where there would be open spaces. But we want our fans at the game, because they cannot support United sitting in from of a television."

Williamson, newly confirmed as permanently in charge at Rugby Park, also voiced his concern at the prospect of a sparse crowd for the semi-final. "It is disappointing that families will not be able to attend as the game is in Edinburgh but I hope we can give them a day out at the final," he said.

reaching a play-off place.
In the Second Division, the "I also hope my getting the job will be a lift to everyone in the dressing-room.
"I am pleased the directors have shown their faith in me and my aim is to lead Kilmarnock to the Cup final and

to safety in the Premier Divi-"We have some young lads in our side but I am sure they will not be overawed by the semi-final, because recently they have played against Celtic and Rangers."

Rotherham were relegated to the Third Division after their 1-0 de-Williamson has made a success of his spell as caretaker manager after taking over from Alex Totten, who was dismissed



eserve success," he said. "Hopefully next year we can do the same again and get into the First Division. John knows that money is available and he

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cape relegation. The draw was

as it ended their faint hopes of

Bury four points clear at the top. Luton remain second while

Wycombe remain in the bottom

four - they are a point behind

Shrewsbury with a game in hand,



